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Follow Our Lead on Jobs, U.S. Tells Europe

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — If Europe is to make a nt in its persisting jobs crisis, it will ve to deregulate its labor and product rkets, and create an open, compet- e environment for industry, senior nerican officials warned Sunday. They made their remarks in inter- ws as they arrived here on their way a meeting of the Group of Seven lustrialized nations — France, Bri- n, Germany, Japan, Italy, Canada and the United States — on Monday and Tuesday that will discuss unemployment.

Although President Jacques Chirac will open the conference on Monday in the northern French city of Lille, its importance has already been diminished by the fact that not one of the G-7 finance ministers invited by France will be present. This is despite the event's having been billed as a rare opportunity for G-7 finance and labor ministers to work together on the problem.

Some G-7 officials have complained in private of "grandstanding" by Mr. Chirac, saying that the Lille meeting, a follow-up to a G-7 jobs conference in Detroit two years ago, is at least partly designed to portray Mr. Chirac in a favorable light at home, at a time when French unemployment is at nearly 12 percent of the work force.

Since the meeting in 1994, unemployment has dropped to 5.5 percent in the United States and soared to an average 11 percent across the European Union. The EU's leaders promised last week at a meeting in Turin to redouble their efforts to combat unemployment, but they refrained from making any specific commitments.

The most sensitive issue that is not on the Lille agenda — an issue that arriving members of the U.S. delegation did not wish to comment on — is whether the jobs crisis will actually be aggravated by the increased taxes, public spending cuts and other tough austerity measures being taken by

See JOBS, Page 12

Yeltsin Offers a Truce To End Chechen Strife

In Sharp Policy Turn, He Opens Way for Talks With Rebel Leader

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Desperate to remove the taint of war from his re-election campaign, President Boris N. Yeltsin ordered a unilateral cease-fire on Sunday in the shattered republic of Chechnya and the phased withdrawal of some Russian forces as part of what he cast as a milestone peace plan to end the 15-month-old conflict.

In a sharp departure from recent Russian policy, Mr. Yeltsin announced that Moscow was prepared for talks with the Chechen leader, Dzhokar Dudayev, who the Russian leader just weeks ago said should be shot as a criminal.

Speaking on national television, Mr. Yeltsin also said he was prepared to offer Chechnya more autonomy than any other region in the Russian Federation, a status he termed "very close to independence."

"From midnight on March 31 of this year, military operations on Chechen territory will stop," Mr. Yeltsin declared.

[The top Russian commander in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, has said it would be impossible to stop all operations in the region immediately, Reuters reported from Moscow.

["For some reason, everyone thinks that March 31 will be a borderline when everything will stop and peace and accord will come," the general said on NTV television, an independent network. "I hope you understand it is impossible to do so." NTV said General Tikhomirov's remarks were made in an interview March 28.

[Reuters also reported from Chechnya that during and after Mr. Yeltsin's speech Russian helicopters and aircraft hit the village of Goiskoye, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of the capital, Grozny.]

After more than 30,000 deaths, most of them civilian, and an exceptionally violent March offensive by Russian troops, Mr. Yeltsin's plan amounted to an 11th-hour attempt to rescue his struggling campaign before elections June 16.

The war, deeply unpopular throughout Russia, dominates the evening news on television night after night with its ghastly images of charred bodies, smashed homes and weeping refugees.

Mr. Yeltsin himself has said his re-election prospects are doomed as long as the war continues. He now lags in all polls behind the leader of the Communist Party, Gennadi A. Zyuganov.

But the plan fell short of meeting two of the Chechen separatists' core demands: complete independence from Russia and the total withdrawal of Moscow's forces from Chechen territory.

Mr. Yeltsin again ruled out sovereignty for Chechnya and acknowledged that the issue remained "the main stumbling block" to a settlement.

He cast further doubt on the scope and chances for success of his proposal by declaring that Russian troops will be withdrawn only from parts of Chechnya that Moscow considers "peaceful."

An unspecified number of the 40,000 federal troops there will stay behind to deal with what he called "terrorism" in the breakaway republic.

Mr. Yeltsin's cease-fire order, therefore, looks shaky at best. Previous truces have been ignored altogether or violated within hours.

The president acknowledged that there was no guarantee of success this time either, saying he was simply "hoping this has a very strong effect on events" in Chechnya.

But the plan may reduce the intensity of fighting to a level where Mr. Yeltsin could at least claim progress toward ending the war as he campaigns.

There was no immediate response from the Chechens. Mr. Dudayev, once a Soviet Air Force general, recently said he would not negotiate with Mr. Yeltsin, whom he has dismissed as powerless.

Reaction among politicians in Moscow was mixed but skeptical.

Sergei Yushenkov, a liberal member of Parliament, said in an interview with Interfax press agency that the plan was "undoubtedly positive, but clearly a belated and insufficient step."

Former General Alexander Lebed, a presidential candidate and a critic of the war, called the plan an election ploy with little chance of success, Interfax said.

Mr. Yeltsin's speech came two months after the Russian leader promised to unveil a peace initiative for the region. As the weeks dragged on, he referred to the secret plan frequently and twice discussed it with his Security Council — reinforcing the impression that the Kremlin has no firm idea about how to extricate itself from the crisis.

Mr. Yeltsin's plan also asked Parliament to extend amnesty to most Chechen fighters. And he called for a forum to be convened in Chechnya with representatives from all factions, including Mr. Dudayev's.

housands ine Up to et Out of ong Kong

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

ONG KONG — Wary and angry China's intentions for Hong Kong its rule, hundreds of protesters hed on Beijing's de facto embassy ay as thousands of residents lined arby to beat a midnight deadline to n British-issued travel documents. ficials said 52,000 applications taken Sunday alone, compared 34,500 for all of 1995.

ina's determination to abolish the fully elected local legislature and ce it with an appointed body has pted deep concerns that Beijing is lling to grant Hong Kong the de- of autonomy outlined for it after 1, 1997, in the Chinese-British Declaration, signed nearly 14 ago.

ose fears worsened sharply last as Chinese officials shocked the community with a call for pledges alty from senior civil servants for visional legislature to be set up in pted forum's place.

nese officials subsequently d away from the need for civil nts to openly declare their support the soon-to-be-appointed legis- , but stressed that senior bureau- employment prospects were dim y did not work with the body.

response, an estimated 800 people hed through crowded streets ay, carrying red balloons, a sym- ccording to protesters, of Beijing's ." They were led by a group of lar local politicians likely to be ned by Beijing's plans to skew the cal process in favor of its loy-

anting, "Silence is not golden, it's " the group, large for ordinarily nt Hong Kong, was joined by onlookers, who cheered the ers on their way to China's Xin- ews agency, the center for its of- presence in the British colony.

e are the legitimate body and we ot be replaced by a rubber-stamp ature appointed by Beijing," said n Lee, leader of Hong Kong's opular political organization, the ratic Party, outside the Xinhua s. "We will fight to the end."

Lee and several of his colleagues been branded as "subversives" by ijing for previous protests and state- ents, including their role in organizing a million-strong march to protest Beijing's crackdown on democracy act- vists in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

During the rally Sunday, the crowd evoked memories of those emotional days, singing "Freedom flower," a song marchers popularized in massive marches nearly seven years ago.

"We have learned from Taiwan that democracy doesn't fall from heaven like manna," Emily Lau, an independent legislator, told the crowd, referring to elections held there earlier this month that defied Beijing's use of military threats to influence the outcome. "You have to stand up and fight for it."

As protesters burst their red balloons, others crushed an effigy of the proposed provisional legislature underfoot, making good a pledge made last week by Mr. Lee to use every legal means to resist Beijing's apparent hard-line stance on Hong Kong's future.

Only a few blocks away, Hong Kong government immigration officials continued to work round-the-clock to process applications for British passports

See HONG KONG, Page 12



Wade Goddard/Reuters

An American soldier guarding a group of Bosnian Muslims going to visit family graves in Brcko. They were met by Serbian hecklers. An accord was announced to strengthen the Muslim-Croat federation. Page 12.

NATO in Bosnia: Still-Shaky Success

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO's success so far in enforcing a military settlement of the war in Bosnia has restored the credibility and sense of purpose the alliance has been seeking since the end of the Cold War, but the achievement rests on foundations as fragile as the peace here.

More than three months into its 12-month mandate in Bosnia, NATO has hardly had to fire a shot to get the parties to observe the provisions of the peace agreement that required them to pull back from the front lines and start reducing their forces.

As a result, except for the danger posed by millions of land mines, in some ways the NATO deployment has been less like a combat operation than like a huge peacetime exercise involving nearly 60,000 soldiers from 32 countries, under U.S. command.

Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Croat and

NEWS ANALYSIS

Muslim military commanders have not challenged NATO soldiers, as they often challenged the lightly armed UN troops who preceded them, because the alliance has a stronger mandate to respond with force.

NATO also has no civilians second-guessing military commanders about whether they can call in air power and artillery to back them up.

With everything going so smoothly, some officials in Washington already have concluded that the American-led alliance has swept aside doubts about its continuing indispensability to stability and security in Europe.

"The peacekeeping force is changing the dynamic of European security," a senior American official said in Paris recently. "NATO has shown that it is a structure that can organize a common political will in a way that no other organization can even approach, and the

See BOSNIA, Page 12

Netanyahu Back in the Race in Israel

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — After the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last November, it seemed there was nothing Benjamin Netanyahu could say that Israelis cared to hear.

In the grief of the moment, the very fact that the leader of the conservative Likud party had opposed Mr. Rabin's peace policies seemed a profanation of the fallen leader's memory, and Mr. Netanyahu's image of a smooth operator and slick talker seemed unworthy of Mr. Rabin's old-fashioned candor and soldierly roughness.

Now, after the wave of suicide bombings, people are listening again, especially when Mr. Netanyahu ridicules "the idea that Arafat will be our subcontractor to fight terrorism," or expounds his campaign theme of "peace with security."

"Bibi," the nickname by which Mr. Netanyahu is universally known in Israel, is back, hammering at Prime Minister Shimon Peres and the Labor Party with the cascade of catchy slogans, crisp sound-bites and punchy interviews that have earned him the sobriquet of "the first American politician in Israel."

The tag is hardly superficial. Mr. Netanyahu finished high school and college in the United States, and served in Washington and at the United Nations before returning to parlay his political tools into a meteoric political career.

His mastery of communication, learned from watching President Ronald Reagan, coupled with his grasp of American-style personal campaigning and his charm and good looks, introduced a whole new style into Israeli politics.

At the same time, his fluent and accentless American English has also made him a fixture on American television as an exponent of the Israeli conservative cause.

Yet in the aftermath of Mr. Rabin's assassination, Mr. Netanyahu's career seemed to come to a crashing halt. His alleged association with the violent slogans of the extreme right prompted the grieving widow, Leah Rabin, to shun his hand demonstratively at graveside. Public-opinion polls showed him trailing so badly that Mr. Peres advanced the elec-

See ISRAEL, Page 12

AGENDA

China Refuses to Bend on Taiwan

TOKYO (Reuters) — The Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, in his first trip abroad since the Taiwan crisis, refused Sunday to rule out using force over the issue as long as there was a chance of the island declaring independence, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Briefing reporters on Mr. Qian's talks with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, the spokesman said both countries now had a clearer idea of each other's views after the meeting, the first between a top Chinese official and the government of the new prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto.

"We cannot commit to non-use of force because in China's view there is still a possibility of Taiwan becoming independent or foreign forces interfering in Taiwan," the spokesman quoted Mr. Qian as saying.

Mr. Qian repeated China's view that Taiwan was part of China and said there was no change in Beijing's policy of maintaining "one country, two systems" after peaceful reunification.

PAGE TWO
The Dark and Gritty Side of China

THE AMERICAS Page 3.
U.S. to Ease Cancer Drug Rules

EUROPE Page 5.
Emergency Meeting on Beef

BUSINESS/FINANCE Page 13.
Israeli Chief Executive Indicted

Opinion Page 10. *Crossword* Page 11.
Books Page 11. *Sports* Pages 20-22.

7 Israeli Troops Die in Crash

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Seven Israeli soldiers died in the crash of an Israeli Army helicopter in the Judean desert on Sunday, officials said.

The air force chief, Herzl Bodinger, said the helicopter was taking part in a training exercise when it crashed moments after taking off. Weather conditions were good and the cause of the accident was not immediately clear.



Vince Bucci/Agence France-Presse

Fans asking an obliging Orlando Palmeiro of the California Angels to autograph baseballs.

It's Time to Play Ball (And Don't Mention '95)

By Thomas Boswell
Washington Post Service

Everybody in baseball says the sport is healing. During spring training, if you said, "Nice day," someone would reply, "The game is healing."

John Schuerholz, general manager of the Atlanta Braves, looks at his players spread out across a practice field in West Palm Beach, Florida, and points to a player with "Monds" on his uniform. "Wonderful Terrific Monds III," says Schuerholz, reciting the outfielder's full name. "What a great name for a ballplayer. This spring I've had 100 questions about him and not one about the strike. That's how it should be.

"His great-grandfather had 12 daughters in a row. When he finally had a boy, he said, 'That's wonderful! Terrific!' That's how the name started."

Baseball — which returned Sunday in Seattle when the Mariners took on the Chicago White Sox in the opener of the regular season — wants desperately to focus on pennant races and uninterrupted 162-game seasons, colorful rookies like the Cuban defector Livan Hernandez and cheerful news about rich new television contracts and a revenue-sharing agreement among owners.

Baseball wants to beat the drum, sell the product andreach into the American public's pocket for about $250 million more in revenue than it got in 1995. Please, don't mention 1995. Baseball executives are businessmen; they know how symbolically horrific last season was. Name any mature, steadily growing American industry that has suffered a one-year drop of almost 20 percent in

See BASEBALL, Page 12

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Ecological Crisis / **Growth Fuels Pollution**

Dark Cloud Over China

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

SHENYANG, China — This is a city under environmental siege. Green canals vomit chemical waste into the lifeless Hun River on the city's southern edge. Industrial smokestacks and thousands of household chimneys shoot noxious fumes into the air. In winter, the snow is black. And dangers lurk below the bad earth: Years of toxic waste dumping has made water unfit to drink and land unfit for planting.

"My younger sister went to Canada and called me to say the sky is actually blue, the clouds actually white," Guo Riji, chairman of Shenyang's science and technology commission, said with a wry laugh.

Shenyang's environment is no laughing matter. Deaths from cancer went up 25 percent, and deaths from respiratory diseases increased 250 percent between 1983 and 1990. Shenyang's air is the most polluted of any major city in Asia, according to the World Bank. Of the 10 most polluted cities in the world, five are in China.

Shenyang is a microcosm of the environmental problems facing China. From northeastern China's aging rust belt to the foul waters of the booming Pearl River delta, from the coal mines of Shanxi Province to the paper mills along the Huai River, China is sitting on one of the world's gravest environmental disasters.

The reason: Layer upon layer of economic policy has paid little heed to the environment. In the past, Communist central planning sought higher output levels regardless of costs — not only in China, but also in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, with disastrous consequences for the environment.

Now a new style of development is mimicking the rawest form of capitalism, with little effective regulatory restraint.

"Philosophers from Marx on have said that development comes at great cost, at times even bloody cost," said He Bochuan, a philosophy of science professor at Zhongshan University in Guangzhou. "In Western imperialist times, countries robbed from other countries. Here, we rob from ourselves."

Economic modernization in a nation growing at a rate of more than 10 percent a year means more consumer packaging, more cars, more refrigerators, more batteries and more junk.

Jeff Gersh, an American consultant with the U.S. company Environmental Strategies, said the Chinese "are intoxicated with economic prosperity, matched by a denial of environmental reality."

Some of the nation's greatest treasures are in danger. Acid rain eats away at the Great Wall, and Beijing's Grand Canal reeks of raw sewage. The 1,500-year-old Datong grottoes, with thousands of ancient Buddhist sculptures, are crumbling. Half of Yunnan Province's rich tropical forests have been destroyed.

To be sure, government leaders have begun to pay attention, many motivated by the fear that environmental calamities could choke economic growth. The National Environmental Protection Agency has tightened regulations, stiffened fines, assessed pollution fees, begun moving dirty industries out of city centers and heightened awareness of pollution.

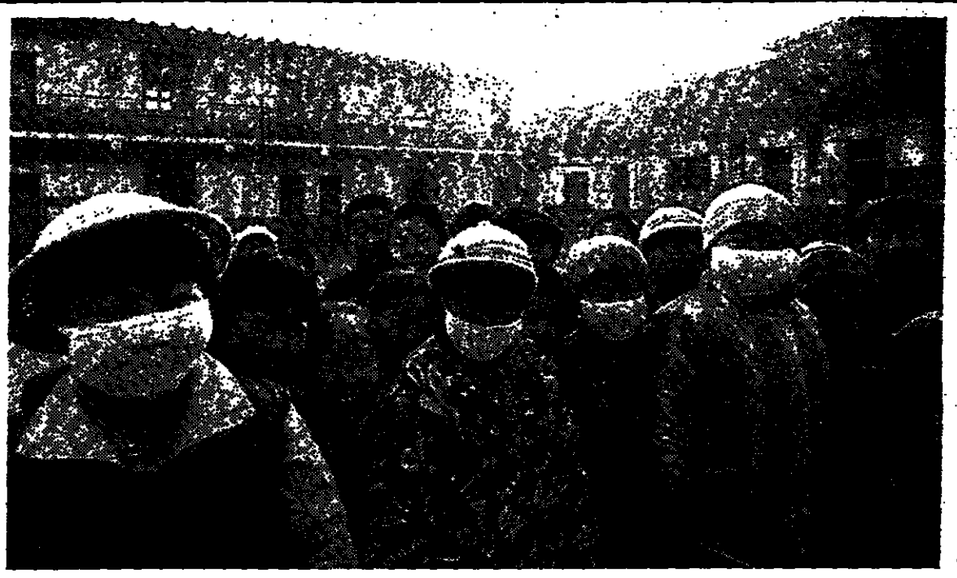
But the huge investment required to install clean energy devices, new manufacturing equipment and water treatment plants has taken a back seat to investment in roads, factories and real estate. The few pollution control measures taken have been overwhelmed by rapid economic growth and the growing number of cars, which run on leaded fuels.

Regulatory enforcement is lax. "The bottom line is that there's insufficient political will and financial resources," said Marc Brody, president of the China Environmental Fund, a U.S. nonprofit consulting concern.

Nowhere is China's environmental crisis more evident than here in Shenyang, China's fourth-largest city with an urban population of 3.3 million.

These are some of its notable features:

• Air: The level of sulfur dioxide and total suspended particulates — the dust and soot in the air that damage lungs, cause lung cancer and contribute to incidence of heart disease, asthma and pneumonia — runs 9 to 13 times greater than the U.S. standard.



The Associated Press

Children wearing masks to protect themselves from pollution from nearby factories at their school in Lanzhou. Like many Chinese cities, Lanzhou mixes residential and industrial areas in close proximity. Of the 10 most polluted cities in the world, five are in China.

• Water: Tests show that 86 percent of wells fail to meet Chinese standards for drinking water. The levels of highly toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, cyanide, ammonia-nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, oils and phenols, far surpass national limits.

• Land: Solid waste, much of it toxic, was scattered in 526 heaps along roadsides, on unused land and in ponds, swamps and rivers. There is no secure landfill or treatment site for any of the 3,500 tons of hazardous industrial waste produced every week.

At the city's Environmental Protection Bureau, the executive director Liu Tiesheng surveys a map. Swaths of purple mark areas of heavy industry on either side of the city center. No matter which way the wind blows, industrial pollution blows across the city.

"We fine companies almost every day," Mr. Liu said, "but the amounts aren't very high." Maximum fines range from $600 to $1,200, and a lot of companies would just as soon pay the fines, said a foreign observer living in Shenyang.

The greatest offender is the Shenyang Smelter. For blocks around, acrid fumes sting people's eyes and throats. The smelter spews forth about a third of the city's sulfur dioxide. That produces acid rain, which has damaged farmland in the area. The Shenyang Smelter also empties such toxic chemicals as arsenic into the largely untreated waste water that six canals carry from the city's industrial zones to the Hun River. The potent brew has killed off fish in the Hun and contaminated the city's water wells, most of which lie within the river basin.

The plant has been fired by coal, which was hedavily subsidized and is still priced below world levels, and its energy efficiency falls far short of international standards. China as a whole relies on coal for three-quarters of its energy needs. With oil production leveled off, coal will remain the most important fuel for future economic growth.

Much of that coal is burned in household stoves. This is the source of air pollution that is most hazardous for the majority of Chinese who live in rural areas and cook and heat with coal stoves. After three winter days in such a home, a person's nose runs gray, eyes turn red and a cough develops.

Shenyang's water crisis is just as grave. Rising industrial demand is draining water supplies. To secure future supplies, the city is developing water resources far outside the city.

If Shenyang's heavy industry represents the burden of the past, small factories arou China dramatize the perils of the present a future. The locomotives of China's rece growth have been tens of thousands of villag and township-run enterprises that often sp cialize in such dirty processes as papermakin printing and dyeing, electroplating, zinc a mercury metallurgy and molding plastic.

The country has also become the world third-largest producer of greenhouse gases a is gaining rapidly on the leaders, the Unit States and Russia.

Experts warn that it would be catastrophi China's 1.2 billion people catch up to U emission levels. "We have the duty of givi our children a better environment for the f ture," Mr. Liu said. "But environmental p lution is a problem while the economy is d veloping. We hope to solve our problems soo but we will have to do them one by one.

COMING UP

Ten years after the catastrophe at Unit 4 of the V.I. Lenin Atomic Power Station turned the word Chernobyl into the world's foremost symbol of technological disaster, the legacy of the accident can b felt in every part of Belarus.

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TRAVEL UPDATE

U.S. Warning on Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (Reuters) — The U.S. Embassy in Bahrain has issued a new security alert on the Gulf state's political unrest, asking Americans in the country to exercise strong caution.

"In light of a recent increase of civil disturbances in Bahrain, including several bomb attacks against hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners, the U.S. Embassy believes the risk to public safety has increased," callers to the embassy security hot line were told.

"Although it appeared some of these attacks may have targeted foreigners, there are no reports of specific threat to Americans," the message, updated on Saturday, said.

Bahrain is the Gulf headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. About 3,500 Americans live on the island, the Gulf's main financial center.

At least nine bombs have exploded at different locations in the country since July 1995, including at three hotels and two restaurants.

Marseille Locks Up Its Meters

MARSEILLE (Reuters) — The city government gave residents permission to ignore parking meters on Saturday to help them ride out a long public transport strike.

Marseille officials said parking would be free until the end of the stoppage. The city's buses and trams have been at a standstill since March 19.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Cyprus, Iran, San Marino.

TUESDAY: Iran.

WEDNESDAY: El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Israel, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Taiwan.

THURSDAY: Andorra, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Macau, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, P... Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, Taiwa... Tanzania, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela.

FRIDAY: Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Ba... Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, ... Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, ... ican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Equatorial ... Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Gibralta... ada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, I... Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, ... enstein, Macau, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, ... Namibia, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Seych... Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tai... Uganda, Uruguay, Vatican City, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

SATURDAY: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Macau, Mexico, Spain, Suriname, Thailand, Vatican City, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

SUNDAY: Djibouti, Egypt, Lebanon, Nigeria, Syria.

Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters.

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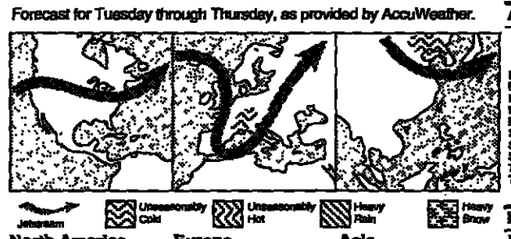
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WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America

After dry weather Tuesday, showers will dampen Chicago and Toronto Wednesday, then Boston, New York City and Washington, D.C., Thursday. Vancouver and San Francisco will have mainly dry weather Tuesday, but rain will return Tuesday night and continue into Wednesday.

Europe

London and Paris will have dry weather during midweek. Rome will have some rain Tuesday through Thursday. Showers will cross Spain and Portugal Tuesday. Showers of rain and snow will be scattered from southern Germany through Poland Tuesday into Wednesday.

Asia

Cold air will pour southward across eastern China and the Korean peninsula. Beijing, Shanghai and Seoul will be mainly dry but chilly. Northern Japan will have some rain and snow at times, while Tokyo and the rest of Japan are dry and cool. Hong Kong will be damp with Singapore staying hot and muggy.

Europe

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algarve	17/62	12/53 c	16/64	12/53 c
Amsterdam	6/43	1/34 s	5/41	0/32 c
Antwerp	10/50	5/41 sh	12/53	4/39 c
Athens	19/61	5/45 s	19/66	12/53 pc
Barcelona	16/61	11/52 t	16/61	4/39 pc
Belgrade	8/46	3/37 r	15/59	7/44 sh
Berlin	4/39	-2/29 pc	4/39	-2/29 c
Brussels	7/44	-1/31 pc	6/43	-2/29 r
Budapest	5/41	1/34 pc	9/48	4/39 r
Copenhagen	2/35	-1/31 f	3/37	-2/29 c
Costa Del Sol	18/61	12/53 c	17/62	11/52 c
Dublin	6/43	2/35 c	8/46	2/35 pc
Edinburgh	6/43	2/35 s	7/44	3/37 c
Florence	11/52	2/49 r	14/57	6/43 t
Frankfurt	3/37	-3/27 t	6/43	-3/27 pc
Geneva	8/46	5/41 r	8/46	-2/29 c
Helsinki	-2/29	-6/22 c	-2/29	-9/16 sn
Istanbul	11/52	2/35 c	16/61	8/46 s
Las Palmas	24/75	14/57 s	23/73	17/62 s
Lisbon	14/57	11/52 c	16/61	11/52 c
London	8/46	1/34 c	6/43	1/34 c
Madrid	12/53	2/48 sh	13/55	1/34 c
Milan	9/48	7/44 r	12/53	2/35 r
Moscow	2/35	-1/31 sn	2/35	-5/24 sn
Munich	4/39	0/32 pc	6/43	-1/30 sn
Nice	11/52	10/50 t	13/55	5/41 sh
Oslo	0/32	-4/25 sn	3/37	-3/27 c
Mallorca	14/57	12/53 t	15/59	5/41 pc
Paris	10/50	-1/31 pc	8/46	-3/27 pc
Prague	2/35	-3/27 c	6/43	-2/29 sn
Reykjavik	6/43	1/34 c	4/39	1/34 sn
Rome	12/53	11/52 r	16/61	7/44 t
St. Petersburg	1/34	-3/27 c	0/32	-8/18 sn
Stockholm	2/35	-3/27 c	1/34	-3/27 sn
Strasbourg	6/43	-2/29 c	10/50	-3/27 pc
Tallinn	-3/27	-5/24 c	-3/27	-7/20 sn
Venice	9/48	8/46 t	13/55	7/44 sh
Vienna	4/39	1/34 c	7/44	3/37 r
Warsaw	2/35	-3/27 t	6/43	-1/31 pc
Zurich	9/48	3/37 pc	8/46	-2/29 r

Oceania

Auckland	21/70	16/61 c	21/70	14/57 pc
Sydney	23/73	13/55 pc	23/73	13/55 pc

Middle East

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Abu Dhabi	29/84	21/70 s	32/90	20/68 s
Beirut	19/66	16/61 sh	22/71	15/59 pc
Cairo	28/82	16/61 pc	27/80	14/57 s
Damascus	17/62	9/48 pc	21/70	8/46 s
Jerusalem	17/62	12/53 c	19/66	11/52 s
Luxor	37/99	17/62 s	41/106	14/57 s
Riyadh	31/88	15/59 s	34/93	16/61 s

Africa

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Algiers	18/64	14/57 pc	18/61	11/52 c
Cape Town	23/73	12/53 s	23/73	11/52 s
Casablanca	18/64	11/52 c	17/62	11/52 c
Harare	21/70	11/52 pc	24/75	10/50 pc
Lagos	32/89	26/79 pc	32/89	27/80 pc
Nairobi	20/68	13/55 t	22/71	13/55 t
Tunis	20/68	16/61 c	19/66	10/50 c

Asia

	Today High	Today Low/W	Tomorrow High	Tomorrow Low/W
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Bangkok	34/93	26/79 pc	34/93	26/79 pc
Beijing	11/52	2/35 pc	11/52	1/34 s
Hong Kong	23/73	17/62 s	19/66	17/62 s
Manila	33/91	24/75 pc	32/89	23/73 pc
New Delhi	33/91	13/55 s	33/91	17/62 s
Seoul	8/48	-1/31 pc	7/44	-3/27 pc
Shanghai	11/52	2/35 r	12/53	2/35 pc
Singapore	31/88	26/79 t	31/88	25/77 t
Taipei	23/73	17/62 sh	19/66	14/57 c
Tokyo	15/59	7/44 pc	14/57	4/39 pc

Latin America

Buenos Aires	33/88	23/73 s	31/88	18/64 pc
Caracas	29/82	18/64 pc	29/84	19/66 pc
Lima	25/77	21/70 pc	26/79	21/70 pc
Mexico City	23/73	11/52 t	23/73	8/46 s
Rio de Janeiro	33/91	23/73 pc	33/91	24/75 pc
Santiago	29/79	9/48 pc	27/80	10/50 pc

North America

Anchorage	-3/27	-16/4 pc	-4/25	-12/11 pc
Atlanta	14/57	2/35 pc	18/66	8/46 s
Boston	13/55	3/37 c	6/43	0/32 sn
Chicago	8/41	-2/29 s	11/52	3/37 s
Denver	24/75	6/43 s	24/75	8/41 s
Detroit	8/46	-4/25 s	8/46	1/34 pc
Honolulu	27/80	19/66 pc	28/82	20/68 pc
Houston	26/77	11/52 s	24/75	14/57 pc
Los Angeles	22/71	12/53 c	24/75	11/52 pc
Miami	28/84	19/61 pc	27/80	18/64 pc
Minneapolis	4/39	-4/25 pc	11/52	2/35 c
Montreal	4/39	3/37 c	4/...	...
Nassau	27/80	21/70 pc	27/80	19/66 t
New York	13/55	3/37 r	8/46	0/32 s
Phoenix	33/91	17/62 s	30/86	15/59 s
San Fran.	17/62	10/50 sh	18/64	9/48 pc
Seattle	13/55	6/43 r	13/55	6/43 r
Toronto	2/35	-1/31 r	3/37	-1/31 pc
Vancouver	11/52	5/41 r	11/52	4/39 c
Washington	12/53	3/37 r	16/61	4/39 pc

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice, W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1996

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U.S. Speeds Up New Cancer Drugs

By Philip J. Hilts
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has announced that it will take steps to streamline the Food and Drug Administration's rules to speed cancer drugs to patients.

President Bill Clinton said the regulatory changes would apply to at least 100 drugs now under study.

"Dozens of them will get to the market sooner and that means they can help Americans suffering from cancers of the breast, lung, ovary, prostate and colon, among others," he said.

The administration hopes that the steps announced Friday will blunt a Republican drive to reduce the regulatory reach of the Food and Drug Administration. Republicans have been pressing for changes at such agencies as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration, arguing that delays in drug approval are bad for patients, drug companies and the nation's competitive position.

The administration already has taken steps to streamline or reduce some drug approval regulations. The changes will go into effect immediately, said Dr. Donna E. Shalala, secretary of health and human services.

But the agency acknowledged that the new approach ran the risk of sometimes making available drugs whose safety and effectiveness had not been as thoroughly tested as they might have been in the past.

Until now, makers of cancer drugs had to show that they could lengthen the survival of cancer patients or improve the quality of their lives before the drugs would be approved for marketing.

Under the new rules, however, all a company has to show is that the drug can measurably shrink the size of a tumor, even for only a short time.

In another significant change, the drug agency will accept evidence of a cancer drug's effectiveness from 26 countries, essentially all those with some system for reviewing and approving drugs, rather than requiring lengthy testing in the United States.

Drugs approved in the 26 countries could become widely available in the United States long before companies submit applications for approval to market them.

Under this so-called expanded access program, which already covers AIDS drugs, any doctor could get one of these drugs from its maker by promising to provide information on the outcome of the treatment.

The Food and Drug Administration said it would monitor the approval of drugs by the 26 countries so that the agency could quickly review data and permit such expanded access to a drug if there were evidence that it worked.

But the commissioner of food and drugs, Dr. David Kessler, said in a telephone interview: "We are taking a risk here. We are going to make mistakes in this process. There will be some drug that comes along that is not as effective as it looked like or has much more severe side effects than we thought. But that risk is worthwhile when patients are facing life-threatening illnesses, we feel."

The main measure in Congress to streamline the agency's drug approval process was approved by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on Thursday, by a 12-to-4 vote.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, chairwoman of the committee, would require the Food and Drug Administration to evaluate every drug or medical device within six months. The bill also takes the first steps to turn over drug approval to private groups paid for by the pharmaceutical industry.

The bill was attacked by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, as a giveaway to industry and a threat to the public safety.

Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group in Washington, said he was concerned about the administration proposal, saying it was pressing the limits of what was possible.

"These are extremely toxic drugs in cancer," he said. "You are fighting fire with fire, so if you just misestimate the benefits versus the risk by a little bit, you could end up doing more harm than good."

POLITICAL NOTES

Leeway on Abortion?

LOS ANGELES — Despite warnings from conservatives that Senator Bob Dole risks losing crucial support from the Republican coalition if he moves toward the center, surveys show that the nearly 12 million people who voted in Republican primaries this year are not particularly right-of-center on major social issues like abortion.

An analysis of surveys of voters in primaries in 28 states found that most do not think the Republican Party should retain a platform plank opposing abortion. In addition, Republican voters were divided on the sensitive issue of cracking down on immigration, and most do not put the nation's moral troubles at the top of their list of factors in voting.

These findings, drawn from exit polls conducted by the four television networks and The Associated Press, suggest that Mr. Dole may not have as difficult a time as some Republicans have predicted in dealing with Pat Buchanan and other conservatives in the months leading up to the party's convention in San Diego in August. Many conservative leaders have warned in particular that Mr. Dole risks fracturing his support if he picks a running mate who supports abortion rights.

Mr. Dole gained enough delegates in the primary here last Tuesday, when he passed the 996 mark of delegates needed to win the nomination. Overall, he captured 6.6 million votes or 55 percent, while Mr. Buchanan drew 2.7 million or 22 percent. The magnitude of Mr. Dole's victories, and the willingness of religious conservatives to support him as the candidate most likely to prevail over President Bill Clinton in November, also could make it easier for Mr. Dole to rally conservatives around his candidacy.

In a study of voting in the primaries, Curtis Gans, director of Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, concluded that the shallowness of Mr. Buchanan's support means that while Mr. Dole "will have to step carefully in the issue of reproductive rights," he "need not pay unnecessary homage to Buchanan to unify his party."

Mr. Dole supports a constitutional prohibition on abortion with exceptions for rape or incest, or when the life of the mother is in danger. But he has been far less outspoken than Mr. Buchanan. *(NYT)*

Trouble for Jobs Bill

WASHINGTON — Legislation to streamline federal job-training programs, praised by Mr. Clinton and conservative Republicans as a vital step in an era of layoffs and downsizing, is bogged down in Congress and threatened by attacks from very conservative groups.

Last fall, both the House and the Senate passed bills that would lighten Washington's hand on dozens of programs that now seek to train or retrain about 1 million unemployed people each year.

At the same time, lawmakers have added provisions that seek to coordinate high school vocational education with shifts in the economy and expand an electronic jobs-bank to help find workers for vacant jobs.

It is the latter two measures that have drawn the most fire.

The complex measure has languished in a House-Senate conference since October, with staff members wrangling and the representatives and senators charged with finding compromises being distracted by other issues.

Another problem looming for the bill is presidential politics. Both the House and Senate versions are close enough to Clinton administration proposals so that the president could take credit for an eventual bill. *(NYT)*

Quote/Unquote

Ross Perot on politics: "I've spent 40 years in business, and I've spent the last four years in national politics, and I can tell you this: politics is very different from business. War has rules. Mud wrestling has rules. Politics has no rules." *(NYT)*

AMERICAN TOPICS

When Bad Food Is Irresistible

Sunday was opening day for the baseball season, and thousands of people who normally would not think of consuming bad food were happily munching on hot dogs and swilling soda pop, just as they devour popcorn at the movies, notes Molly O'Neill, food critic for The New York Times.

Psychologists call its "situational eating," a far cry from rational, scientific eating.

Over the past decade, ballpark vendors have offered health-conscious and gourmet items, said Joel White, director of merchandising for the New York Yankees.

But the fans did not buy it, he said. Hot dogs, beer and soda pop still comprise 70 percent of all food concession sales at Yankee Stadium.

David Garner, a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and author of the forthcoming "Handbook of Psychotherapy for Eating Disorders" (Guilford), says nutritional considerations cannot compete with the macrosocial impact of eating certain foods in certain places at certain times.

To eat a frankfurter, he says, is to join a community of fans, to be a link in the history of the national pastime, to be a part of rather than apart from. It also tastes good.

Short Takes

After 12 seasons and 264 episodes, Angela Lansbury's "Murder, She Wrote" will air its last four original episodes in May, the Columbia Broadcasting System has announced. Ms. Lansbury, a four-time Tony Award winner on Broadway, declined to comment. "Murder, She Wrote," which stars Miss Lansbury as a best-selling novelist-turned-amateur sleuth, opened September 30, 1984, and was the highest-rated drama series on TV for a record nine straight seasons, from 1985 to 1994. The series joins "Dragnet" and "Hawaii Five O," both of which also ran 12 seasons, as TV's longest-running detective shows.

Lennie Parillo, a swimming pool cleaner in Boca Raton, Florida, dipped into the waters of a new client's pool and found a 7-foot (2-meter) alligator lurking in its depths. He said he noticed what appeared to be some kind of black toy on the bottom. Then the toy moved its tail. A trapper and two helpers, using a large fishing rod and a pool skimmer, took an hour to remove the gator. Officials said it had apparently broken through the screen surrounding the pool and settled into what it mistook for a pond.

About People

At 64, **Dan Rather** has been anchorman for CBS News for 15 years. His contract runs to the year 2000. "I plan to be here" until then, he told the Los Angeles Times. Would he like to stay beyond 2000? "I'd love to, but that's not going to happen," he said. "Television is a young person's game, and I'm living on borrowed time."

Mira Sorvino, who won an Academy Award last month for best supporting actress for her role as a semi-literate prostitute in Woody Allen's "Mighty Aphrodite," turns out to be a brain in disguise. Her Harvard thesis on race relations between Chinese and African exchange students was extraordinary, Professor Peter Bol, a specialist in Chinese history, told the New York Daily News. "It was regarded as publishable," he said. "She's very, very smart."

International Herald Tribune

Away From Politics

• **The space shuttle Atlantis** landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California after a 10-day mission that dropped off an astronaut on the Russian space station Mir. NASA moved the landing from Kennedy Space Center in Florida because of bad weather. *(AFP)*

• **An earthquake** with a magnitude of 4.0 hit the eastern edge of central California, but no damage or injuries were reported. *(Reuters)*

• **The failure of an agency** to impose the use of electronic braking systems may have contributed to the crashes of at least 10 runaway freight trains in 27 months, federal and union officials said. They said the wrecks could have been prevented if the trains had been equipped with the systems, which permit train crews to apply brakes by remote control. *(LAT)*

• **Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols,** the two men charged in the Oklahoma City bombing, have been moved under tight security to a federal prison in Colorado. *(AP)*

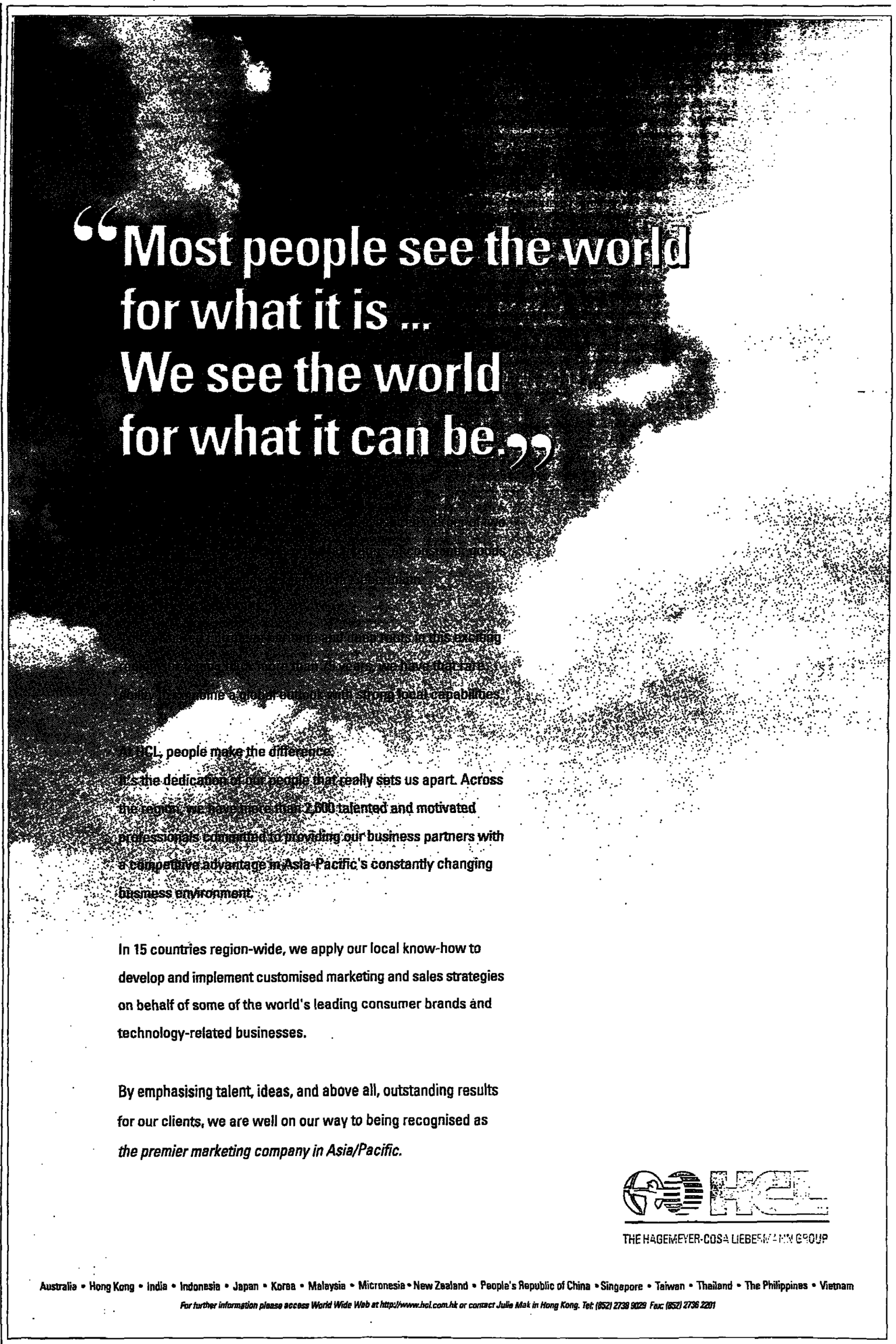
• **The Food and Drug Administration** has classified acupuncture needles as medical devices for "general use" by trained professionals. *(WP)*

• **A truck** slammed into a stalled minivan on a highway near Minden, Iowa, killing 3-year-old triplets inside. The girls' father was trying to direct traffic around the van, which was stopped in the passing lane after hitting a guard rail. The truck was trying to pass another vehicle. *(AP)*

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ASIA/PACIFIC

35 Rebels, 10 Sailors Killed Off Sri Lanka

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

COLOMBO — At least 35 separatist rebels and 10 sailors were killed after rebels launched a daring attack on a navy convoy, the military said Sunday.

At least 10 sailors were also wounded in the attack Saturday off Sri Lanka's northeastern coast, about 250 kilometers northeast of Colombo, said Major Tilak Dunuwille, a military spokesman in Colombo.

Navy gunships escorting the convoy repulsed an initial attack by Tamil guerrillas, but other rebel boats launched another attack, said Major Dunuwille.

A navy boat was destroyed when it was rammed by an explosive-laden rebel boat, killing 10 government sailors. An undetermined number of rebels were also believed killed.

The rebel attack was later repulsed with the help of air force helicopter gunships, said Major Dunuwille. Four rebel boats were destroyed, killing 35 rebels.

Tamil rebels are fighting for a separate homeland in the country's north and east. They claim discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and the military.

The independent Sunday Times said government forces had launched a fresh offensive against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels in Valikamam, in the northern Jaffna Peninsula captured by the army last December.

But military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said that only routine clearing operations were taking place in the Valikamam area, north of Colombo.

"Clearing operations will continue until we're satisfied Valikamam is clear of any infiltrators. We may increase the number of troops depending on the threat level," he said.

Jaffna residents who stayed behind when troops captured the area had complained of intimidation by rebel infiltrators, he said.

Three soldiers and six civilians were killed in two rebel attacks on army road blocks in eastern Batticaloa on Sunday, military officials said.

The Sunday Times said two army divisions launched an operation Friday to flush out rebels from Valikamam, where 18 soldiers were killed two weeks ago by a land mine. *(AP, Reuters)*



Rafiqur Rahman/Reuters

Supporters of Sheikh Hasina, the opposition leader, rallying Sunday in Dhaka with photos of her and her father, Sheikh Mujib, the first president.

Bowing to Protests, Bangladesh Leader Resigns

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DHAKA, Bangladesh — After two years of relentless public pressure, Prime Minister Khalida Zia has resigned and dissolved Parliament, clearing the way for a neutral authority to hold new elections.

"I am no more the prime minister. I have transferred power constitutionally, and I want fresh elections to be held in May," Begum Zia said Saturday before a crowd of more than 50,000 supporters in the capital, Dhaka.

Though businesses reopened after a retired chief justice, Mohammed Habibur Rahman, agreed to form a caretaker government, the police remained on alert because of fears of clashes between suppporters of Begum Zia and anti-government activists.

Bangladesh has been paralyzed by a political standoff in which opposition leaders accusing Begum Zia of corruption and incompetence have called general strikes and often-violent protests. An anti-government strike launched on March 9 has been especially harsh.

Begum Zia had planned to convene Parliament for one last session on Sunday, but that became impossible Saturday when staff workers at the government building decided to join a strike by 1.3 million civil servants.

"There will be no electricity, no water, no microphones," said a member of the Parliament staff, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Ultimately, Begum Zia had Communications Minister Oli Ahmed deliver her letter of resignation to President Abdur Rahman Biswas — opening the door for a neutral interim government to hold fresh elections within 90 days.

Mr. Biswas on Saturday swore in Mr. Habib as a caretaker prime minister. He will appoint an 11-member Council of Advisers.

Within an hour of Mr. Habib's ascension, Hasina Wazed, the main opposition leader, called off her protests.

"It is the victory of the people. We must sustain the victory at any cost," Sheikh Hasina said at her home.

By Sunday, a regular working day in Muslim Bangladesh, things returned to normal for the first since the strike began Wednesday. Traffic clogged streets, workers streamed to factories, and government offices, stores, banks and schools reopened.

Mr. Habib said Sunday that his first job will be to restore peace to hold new elections.

"I've a tough job to do. My first task will be to restore law and order," he said.

On Saturday, the jubilation was marred when the police fired tear gas to disperse nearly 3,000 protesters who had gathered outside Dhaka's central jail to demand the release of a deposed president, Hussain Mohammed Ershad, who is serving a nine-year sentence for corruption and abuse of power.

Witnesses said at least 60 of the protesters were injured, including Mr. Ershad's wife and two senior leaders of the Jatiya Party, one of three parties that worked together to oust Begum Zia.

But in most places, the mood was one of relief.

"At least there will be peace. Life will be normal now," said Sahera Khatoon, a housewife.

The cost of forcing Begum Zia out of office has been enormous.

Street clashes between activists and the police have left at least 227 people dead in the last two years.

The country — its ports, factories, offices, trains and buses — have been shut for 250 days in the past two years. For each day, the loss in production and exports is estimated at $80 million.

Strikes hit crucial garment exports that earned much-needed foreign exchange, leading the nation's business community to join the opposition campaign.

Begum Zia, 51, came to power in Bangladesh's first free election in 1991. She is the widow of President Ziaur Rahman, who was killed in 1981 in a failed mutiny by army rivals.

In December 1994, the 147 opposition members of Parliament resigned in protest over Begum Zia's administration. Following failed negotiations and national strikes, Parliament was dissolved in November 1995.

Begum Zia held new elections in February and was overwhelmingly re-elected, but opposition leaders boycotted the vote and refused to accept the results. *(AP, AFP)*

BRIEFLY ASIA

China Demands a Clinton Veto

BEIJING — China on Sunday warned of "serious damage" to U.S.-China relations if President Bill Clinton does not veto a bill that would strengthen Washington's ties with Taiwan and increase pressure on Beijing to improve human rights.

The measures are included in the State Department authorization bill, which the Senate passed Thursday and the House of Representatives approved earlier. Mr. Clinton has said he will veto the bill.

Its provisions include inviting the president of Taiwan to the United States, increasing other ties with the island, toughening human rights pressure on China, naming a special envoy to Tibet and setting up Radio Free Asia broadcasts into China.

The spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Shen Guofang, said the "anti-China" clauses "represent a gross encroachment on China's sovereignty and wanton interference in China's internal affairs." His remarks were carried by the official Xinhua news agency. *(AP)*

Korean Opposition Objects

SEOUL — South Korea's main opposition party accused the government on Sunday of exaggerating threats from North Korea in a bid to win support for elections in April.

The National Congress for New Politics said in a statement that President Kim Young Sam was whipping up prospects of instability on the Korean Peninsula ahead of the elections April 11.

The government has said food shortages and other problems were pushing North Korea to the verge of collapse, and could tempt it into some sort of military action. *(Reuters)*

Mannequins 'Died' in Indonesia?

JAKARTA — The mayor of Bogor and a shop owner in the town denied reports that 77 people died last week in a fire in a shopping mall, saying that 10 people were killed, and that charred mannequins were mistaken for victims.

Eddy Garnadi, mayor of the town in West Java, said results of forensic examinations showed that only nine women and one man died in the fire on Thursday.

Mr. Garnadi's account contradicted news reports Friday that quoted officials as saying that at least 77 bodies were found at the Kebon Kembang shopping mall in Bogor, south of Jakarta. *(AP)*

Srinagar Deaths Spark Strike

SRINAGAR, India — Shops and businesses were shut in Jammu and Kashmir state's summer capital on Sunday in a strike called by separatist guerrillas after 24 militants were killed by the police near Kashmir's holiest shrine.

A four-day strike has been called by a faction of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the organization to which the militants belonged. Most of the streets were deserted Sunday, except for security patrols. *(Reuters)*

VOICES From Asia

Yukihiko Ikeda, foreign minister of Japan, on talks about Taiwan with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen: "We hope China will try to resolve the issue through dialogue." *(AFP)*

Jaipal Reddy of the socialist Janata Dal party, on jostling for position ahead of elections in India: "The problem on the eve of elections is caused by personal ambition rather than ideological differences." *(Reuters)*

Shakeup at Nagasaki Museum

Agence France-Presse

NAGASAKI — The city of Nagasaki opened a new atomic bomb museum Sunday after making last-minute changes to an exhibit depicting the Japanese invasion of China in 1937.

"We replaced the photograph depicting the Nanjing massacre with one showing the invasion," said Noboru Tasaki, assistant manager of the new museum. "We later responded and changed it to something else in response to the reaction of the Chinese press."

The last-minute change came shortly before Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of China arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for an official four-day visit.

The new photograph shows what appears to be distraught Chinese civilians being herded together by Japanese troops.



Kazuhiro Nogi/Agence France-Presse

Policemen guarding a U.S. facility Sunday on Okinawa.

Thousands Protest U.S. Okinawa Bases

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NAHA, Okinawa — Thousands of people throughout Japan demonstrated on Sunday against U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

Organizers said up to 90,000 people took part in protests in Tokyo, but the police said only 26,000 people participated. There were smaller demonstrations on Okinawa itself and in several other major cities.

The protests, all orderly, took place well away from any U.S. bases, and all dispersed peacefully.

Nearly half the 47,000 U.S. service personnel based in Japan are stationed on Okinawa, 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo.

The Communist organizers said about 90,000 people came from across the country in the biggest anti-American rally on the Japanese mainland since the rape of a 12-year-old girl by three U.S. servicemen last September outraged many Japanese.

"The U.S. Army should leave Okinawa!" demonstrators shouted as they marched in Tokyo. "Scrap the Japan-U.S. security treaty!"

About 1,500 policemen in Okinawa were guarding a U.S. telecommunications facility at the center of a dispute between the inhabitants and the Japanese government.

The police fear a possible sabotage attempt by extremists against the Sobe global communications facility in Yomitan village, Jiji Press and other reports said.

The lease for part of the site was to expire at midnight Sunday and the landowner and the Okinawa governor, Masahide Ota, have refused to renew it.

The 500,000-square-meter (5.4 million-square-foot) site has 440 separate owners, including Shoichi Chibana who has refused to renew the lease that expires at midnight.

Around 1,000 anti-American activists held a rock and folk music concert near the site Sunday to encourage Mr. Chibana and other landowners.

Mr. Chibana, a 47-year-old shop owner, is expected to file a request with the Naha District Court on Monday for the return of his 230 square meters of land.

The Japanese government, obliged to provide land to U.S. forces under their bilateral security treaty, has put up a fence around the site to deter demonstrators.

A government spokesman, Seiroku Kajiyama, said last week the end of the lease would not immediately mean the land was being illegally used.

The government started action against the Okinawa governor in December last year for refusing orders to sign documents to force landowners to renew leases for the bases.

More than 90 percent of Okinawans, according to newspaper surveys, support the governor's refusal. Most were enraged by the rape in September for which the U.S. servicemen were jailed for up to seven years.

The High Court ruled against Governor Ota last week, ordering him to sign documents needed to renew leases for 370,000 square meters of land owned by some 2,900 "anti-war" landowners. Mr. Chibana's lease was the first to expire. *(Reuters, AFP)*

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EUROPE

Now Cosmetics Go Way of Beef

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European cosmetics industry federation will ask members to recall products that are made with key cattle ingredients, like brains and eyes, as a precautionary measure related to "mad cow" disease, officials said Sunday.

The European Union consumer affairs commissioner, Emma Bonino, said that despite assurances that specific measures to avoid contamination had been in place since 1991, the request had been made as an additional safeguard.

The step came after a meeting of industry officials, consumer activists and European Commission experts.

EU Farm Meeting's Goal: Ease Fears

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — With the European Union ready to share Britain's cost, EU farm ministers will hold an emergency meeting on Monday in an effort to ease fears over "mad cow" disease and avert a further crash in beef markets.

Since EU leaders pledged solidarity with Prime Minister John Major of Britain at the European summit meeting in Turin on Friday, farm ministers must now take measures to get the ban on British beef exports lifted as soon as possible.

Such was the strength of support expressed for Britain's plight that Mr. Major was forced to deny suggestions Saturday that London had been forced to alter its stance on European matters in return for help to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Major said on BBC radio that British opposition to fuller European integration remained "one of principle" and was "quite separate from the beef crisis."

At the farm meeting set for Monday in Luxembourg, London, which has criticized the EU ban on its beef exports, will assert there was no rational basis for the ban.

"Obviously it is a major objective of ours to get the ban lifted, but we've got a lot of work to do," the British agriculture minister, Douglas Hogg, said. He has already banned the sale of meat from older cattle and imposed stricter monitoring of animals.

But more drastic British measures will probably be necessary to overturn the ban. The farm ministers are likely to assess new British proposals to eradicate the deadly brain disease, which has been linked to an equally fatal human strain.

France is not excluding a worst-case scenario. Farm Minister Philippe Vasseur said over the weekend that he was ready to support the slaughter of the entire British beef herd if it was necessary to wipe out mad cow disease and restore consumer confidence.

"If scientists say that the only solution is to slaughter all British livestock, I for one will be ready," he said.

But whatever happens, London can count on the EU's financial assistance.

Ridding Britain of the disease will be costly. Preliminary estimates start at $4 billion, depending on the number of cattle that must be slaughtered and burned. *(AP, AFP)*



Agence France-Presse

PALM SUNDAY RITE — Pope John Paul II carrying a cross with an olive branch in St. Peter's Square. He appealed for the release of seven Trappist monks who were kidnapped in Algeria last week.

François Léotard Chosen to Lead Giscard's Centrists

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

PARIS — François Léotard, a former defense minister and ardent advocate of European unity, was chosen Sunday to succeed former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as the new leader of France's second largest political grouping, the centrist Union for French Democracy.

Mr. Léotard, 54, easily defeated his closest rival, former Finance Minister Alain Madelin, by capturing 57 percent of the ballots among centrist party delegates at a political convention held this weekend in Lyon. Mr. Madelin scored only 30 percent despite a strong endorsement from Mr. Giscard d'Estaing.

In a victory speech, Mr. Léotard vowed to rally the fractious grouping and surpass its ruling partners, the Gaullists, as the country's strongest political force in the 1998 legislative elections. "My first duty will be to reconcile and reunite," he said.

Mr. Madelin, a free-market economist who was fired from the cabinet last year by Prime Minister Alain Juppé for demanding that privileges of French civil servants should be curtailed, said he would try to work with Mr. Léotard and not pursue the option of launching a new political party. Mr. Madelin's disappointing showing was the latest in a series of humiliating blows to Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, whose political influence has waned dramatically. The 70 year-old former president stalked out of the convention after his candidate was rejected and refused to join Mr. Léotard on the podium for a ritualistic display of harmony.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing created the UDF 18 years ago in hopes of transforming France's political landscape and consolidating his personal leadership of the country. But he lost the presidency in 1981 to François Mitterrand, a Socialist, and never managed to rally his movement's five different factions into a cohesive alliance.

Even though friends urged him to retire from politics and become an international elder statesman, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing refused to abandon his dream of regaining the presidency. He tried to humanize his image as an aloof, arrogant technocrat, but the makeover never appeared convincing.

After toying with a final run for the presidency, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing threw his support last year behind Jacques Chirac in his bitter rivalry with his fellow Gaullist, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, to become the conservative standard-bearer.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Further Delay Seen for Aznar

MADRID — José María Aznar, the leader of the conservative Popular Party, could be named Spain's prime minister during the third week of April, the country's new parliamentary speaker said in an interview published Sunday.

Federico Trillo, elected speaker at the first meeting of the new Parliament last Wednesday, said he expected King Juan Carlos I to declare the legislature formally open after his consultation with politicians ends April 12.

"This allows us to think that an investiture debate can take place in the week beginning April 15 — around April 18 or 19," Mr. Trillo told the Catholic newspaper ABC.

With 156 seats, 20 short of a majority in the 350-seat parliament, Mr. Aznar's party needs the support of the Catalan Convergence and Unity coalition and other smaller regional parties. *(Reuters)*

Kohl Rival to Meet Clinton

BONN — Germany's leading opposition leader plans to propose an "International Pact Against Unemployment" when he meets with President Bill Clinton in Washington this week.

Oskar Lafontaine, national chairman of the Social Democrats, is to travel to Washington on Wednesday and has a meeting scheduled with Mr. Clinton on Thursday.

In a statement Sunday, the party said Mr. Lafontaine would propose an immediate program to promote growth and employment.

Germany has an unemployment rate of 11 percent of the work force, and some economists fear the country is headed for its second recession in three years.

Mr. Lafontaine also plans to meet with the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, and the head of the International Monetary Fund, Michael Camdessus. *(AP)*

French Newsman Returns to TV

PARIS — France's best-known television news anchor will go back on the air on Monday evening after an 80-day suspension for his conviction in a political corruption case, the private television TF1 announced.

"Starting Monday, rediscover the 8 P.M. newscast presented by Patrick Poivre d'Arvor," TF1 said in a broadcast publicity spot.

Mr. Poivre d'Arvor was suspended from his job on Jan. 11 after an appeals court upheld his 15-month suspended prison sentence and fine of 200,000 francs ($40,000) for accepting lavish gifts and Caribbean holidays from a businessman trying to further the career of his father-in-law, Michel Noir, the former mayor of Lyon. *(Reuters)*

Calendar

EU events scheduled for Monday:

LILLE, France: G7 labor ministers hold unemployment summit.

LUXEMBOURG: European agricultural ministers have an exceptional meeting on "mad cow disease."

THE HAGUE: Single market commissioner Mario Monti meets the Dutch finance minister, Gerrit Zalm.

BUJUMBURA, Burundi: Humanitarian aid commissioner Emma Bonino starts tour of "Great Lakes" region, until to April 5. Meets President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya of Burundi and Prime Minister Antoine Nduwayo.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

Italian President Warns Against Authoritarianism

Reuters

ROME — Italy's election campaign took a fresh twist on Sunday after President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro unexpectedly warned politicians against any moves to push the country into "the pitch-black tunnel of authoritarianism."

Speaking during a state visit to Mexico on Saturday, Mr. Scalfaro said a stronger presidential-style system could turn Parliament into a lame duck and weaken democratic traditions.

Reform of Italy's political system, which the center-right and center-left blocs have haggled over inconclusively, remains a sensitive issue.

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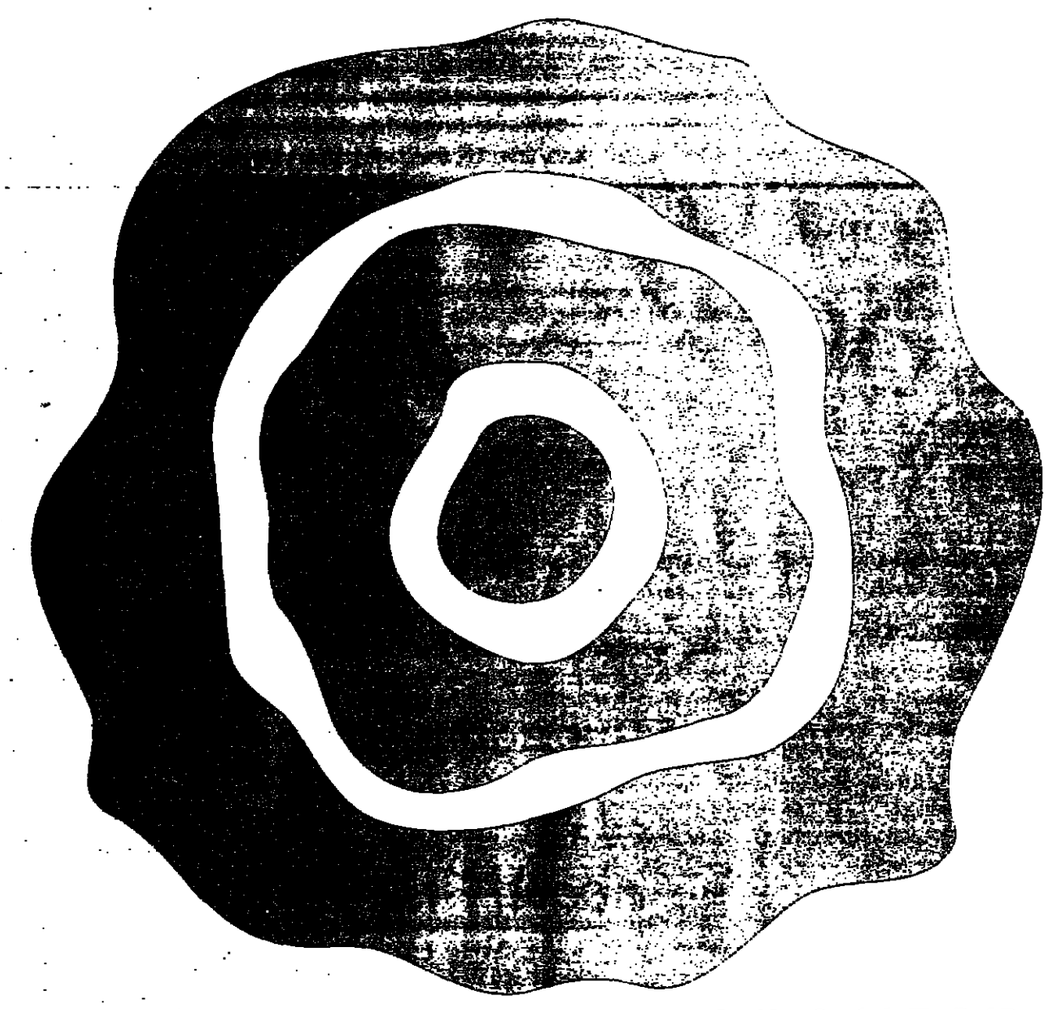
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INTERNATIONAL

Berlin Feels Pinch of Living With a Budget

City Pays Cost Of Unification

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

BERLIN — The financial cost of German unification finally struck Berlin last week, as the city council approved the biggest budget cuts in half a century despite days of angry and sometimes violent street protests.

In the years when West Berlin was an isolated outpost surrounded by Communist East Germany, the West German government kept it afloat with billions of dollars in subsidies. That assistance has evaporated, and Berlin must now cut many of the programs it had come to take for granted.

Officials here had hoped that the move of the German government from Bonn to Berlin would generate enough tax revenue to cover the budget gap. But the move has taken much longer than Berliners expected, and the city now faces a financial crisis.

After Mayor Eberhard Diepgen was re-elected in October, he named a new city finance minister who had gained a reputation as a pitiless budget-cutter while serving in a similar position in the state of Hesse.

Because the new minister, Annette Fugmann-Heesing, was not from Berlin and presumably has no political ambitions here, she was charged with making the budget cuts local politicians fear to make.

Ms. Fugmann-Heesing assumed her job with gusto, and last month proposed a series of cuts aimed at reducing the city budget from $30.3 billion to $29.1 billion. In a city accustomed to living well, the cuts sparked cries of outrage.

Protest demonstrations grew daily as Thursday's city council vote on the cuts approached. Last Monday, 3,000 schoolchildren converged on City Hall, protesting cuts in extracurricular activities like art and photography. Some became violent, and the police reported afterward that several officers were injured by flying rocks and more than 50 autos had been vandalized.

On Tuesday, construction workers tied up traffic for hours as they snaked toward City Hall in long bus-and-auto caravans. Their leaders said that canceling public housing projects would throw 14,000 laborers out of work.

On Wednesday, the schoolchildren returned, and they had barely left before thousands of supporters of youth programs appeared to protest plans to close swimming pools, youth clubs and after-school programs.

Among the groups that begged Ms. Fugmann-Heesing to exempt them from her budget reductions were defenders of a dental clinic at the Free University, which is to be closed; users of city libraries, who will now be charged $13 per year instead of being admitted free; and members of orchestras made up of police officers, sanitation workers and transit employees, which are losing subsidies that total nearly $3 million. She turned them all away.

The only decision Ms. Fugmann-Heesing agreed to reverse was one to slash subsidies for the city's acting school, which is the successor to a school founded in 1905 by Max Reinhardt when he took over as director of the Deutsches Theater has produced many leading actors, including Marlene Dietrich.

There is a broad consensus in Berlin that the city's position as a world cultural center must be protected.

The Culture Ministry is not only being spared budget cuts, but will be given a slight increase to support theaters, opera houses, museums and other cultural insitutions.

Both major political parties, the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, had participated in discussions that produced the budget-cutting package, so its approval by the city council Thursday by an overwhelming margin was expected.

The police were on high alert, however, searching every visitor who entered the City Hall building and using dogs to sniff packages that might contain explosives.

Despite her success in pushing through the cuts, Ms. Fugmann-Heesing was in no mood to celebrate.

Asked if budgets that survived her cuts this year were now safe, she replied:

"I can't promise that. The problems that lie ahead of us are even more acute than those we have solved today."



Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters

ALL STOP — Trucks waiting at Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany, to cross into Poland. Lines as long as 12 kilometers have formed since Poland began closing the border to trucks on the weekend.

Q&A / **Stuart Eizenstat**

Trans-Atlantic Agenda

Stuart Eizenstat, who has been the U.S. ambassador to the European Union since September 1993, leaves Brussels this week to become U.S. undersecretary of commerce for international trade. He spoke with Tom Buerkle of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. You came here three years ago when the EU and the United States were at loggerheads on trade. Today you leave with a trans-Atlantic agenda and the promise of cooperation on a wide range of issues. What has happened, and is it durable?

A. On the trade front, the seminal event was the breaking of the seven-year impasse on the Uruguay Round. We still have disputes over bananas and beef hormones. But with the WTO [World Trade Organization] we have a rules-based organization to which we can refer these differences.

On the political front, the major step forward was reaching an intellectual agreement. With the end of the Cold War, it was essential that we not allow the trans-Atlantic relationship to atrophy. Once that agreement was reached, the rest of the trans-Atlantic agenda became possible.

Q. What about the follow-up?

A. First, with no fanfare, we have now launched the joint study on identifying and reducing or eliminating the trade barriers.

Second, one of the high points of the agenda was coordinating our development and humanitarian assistance programs. Brian Atwood, the head of AID [Agency for International Development], and Emma Bonnino will be making a joint visit at the beginning of April to Rwanda and Burundi. This is a very high visibility effort to demonstrate that this increased coordination is in fact going to work.

The EU joined us in the WTO action we brought against Japan on the copyright issue. The EU has come out in February with what they style as a more aggressive posture toward market opening in Asia.

And now, the EU is suggesting that we both need to work on improving the offers [in the global telecommunications talks] from Asian countries, developing countries, Japan and Canada.

This is a very welcome development, and I think and hope it indicates a closer coordination to open Asian markets.

•

Q. You've made it clear that other cooperation is contingent on the EU getting its own act together. Are you optimistic?

A. The United States has a very direct interest in what follows from Turin. The IGC [Intergovernmental Conference] has to be successful to permit enlargement, which is of critical importance to the future security and stability of the European Continent.

The new trans-Atlantic agenda looks at the European Union not just as a trade organization but as a political partner that would be capable over time of working with the United States on the full range of political, diplomatic, economic and trade challenges around the world.

For that to occur, the IGC has to be successful in improving the functioning of the common foreign and security policy and in the third pillar [of justice and police cooperation]. I am cautiously optimistic.

•

Q. Does the United States have a direct interest in an EU foreign policy chief?

A. This is very much an internal issue for the EU to decide. What we do have an interest in is having an efficient decision-making process which develops a European-wide perspective in which decisions can be made in real time, and we have an interlocutor with whom we can deal who provides continuity.

Q. How crucial is the development of combined joint task forces? Is the EU intergovernmental conference relevant to it or is the only debate about Europe's foreign policy taking place at NATO?

A. The problem is that the time frame for the IGC and the time frame for Bosnia don't exactly coincide. NATO is going to withdraw a year from its deployment, in December, and the IGC may not have completed its work by then.

The challenge will be to maintain the cohesion we have now developed in the post-Dayton period after the NATO withdrawal. That will be a really key acid test of the durability of this new relationship because it will heavily have to fall on our ability to coordinate and collaborate on nonmilitary items.

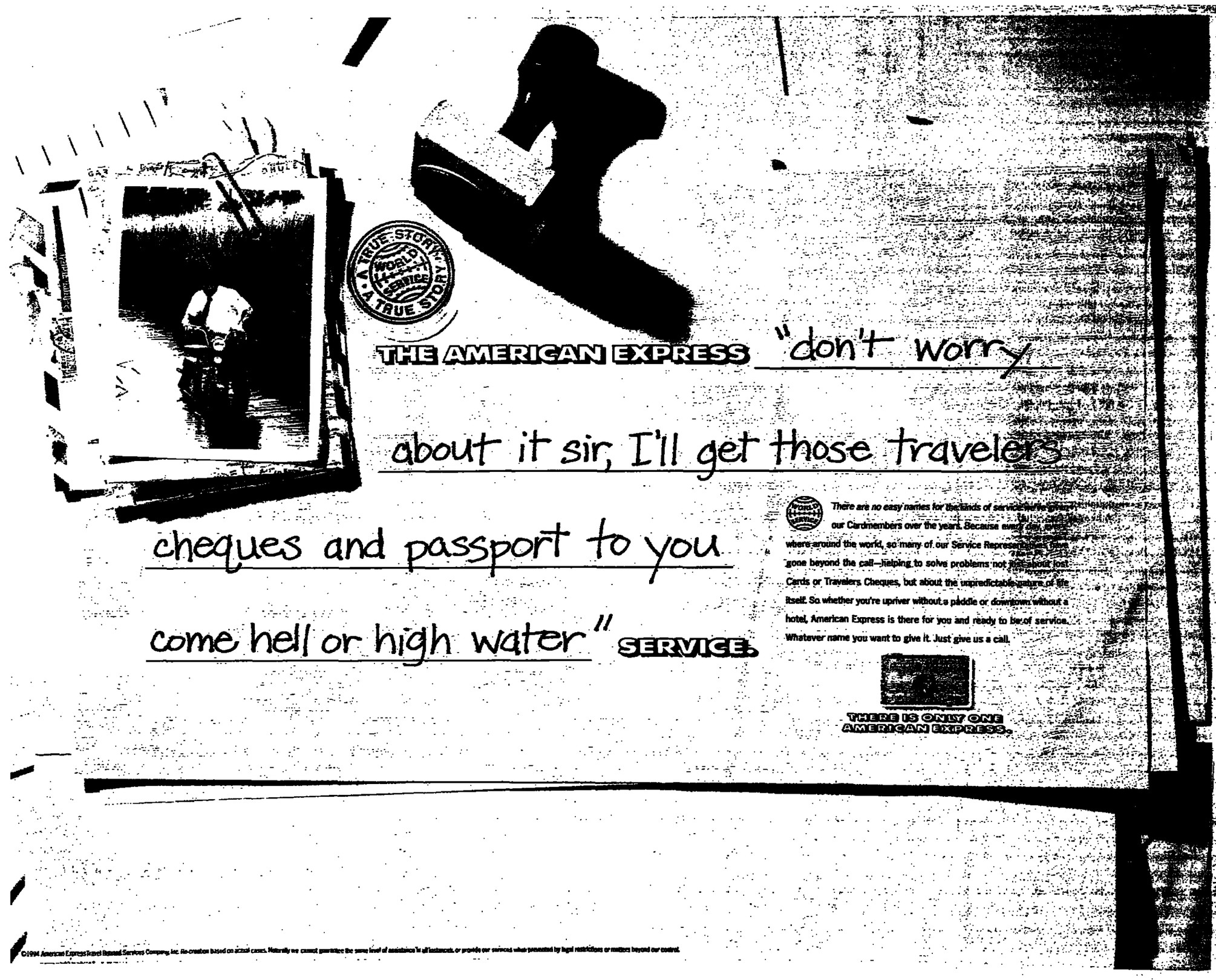
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Q. Do you think monetary union is on track, and are you concerned about its implications for growth?

A. Obviously the degree of growth will have an impact on the ease with which the criteria can be achieved. But what I've been impressed by is the degree of political commitment.

The greatest challenge the European Union faces, even above the updating of its institutions, is generating economic and job growth to reduce the unemployment rate.

Slow growth and high unemployment cast a cloud over a great deal of what the EU wants to accomplish: enlargement, deeper integration, reaching the Maastricht criteria. We will know a lot more about the future of Europe by looking at what the unemployment rate is five years than perhaps by any other measure.



INTERNATIONAL

Montana's Freemen: 'This Thing Just Kept Building'



Gary C. Caskey/Reuters

The Freemen have barricaded a public road near their compound.

By Tom Kenworthy and Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Back in the days when he was benefiting from the easy credit policies of the Farmers Home Administration, Ralph Clark did not seem to have much problem with the federal government. But when land values and crop prices fell in the farm crisis of the 1980s, and he began having trouble making the payments on his farm near the small eastern Montana town of Jordan, Mr. Clark was easily persuaded to believe that government was the enemy.

When a crop-duster and tax delinquent named LeRoy M. Schweitzer came recruiting for an anti-government group he called the Freemen, Mr. Clark signed on. So did his brother Emmett, his son Edwin and nephew Richard.

All four became eager apostles of the Freemen's credo: that all forms of organized government are illegitimate and have no right to collect taxes or even require auto tags; that they could form their own government; that they could defy foreclosure actions, issue arrest warrants and hold trials of government officials; that they could act as their own central bank and defraud the government, financial institutions and merchants.

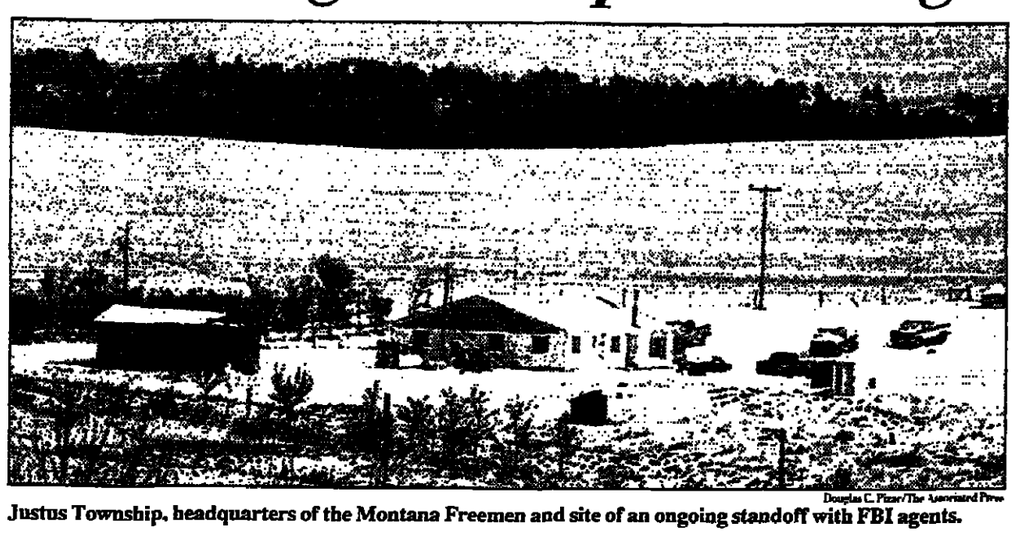
For people living on the margins on an unforgiving landscape where even the most industrious face tough obstacles, the Freemen offered a psychic refuge for Ralph and Emmett Clark as they faced foreclosure on their properties on the isolated plains of eastern Montana. Blaming the government made it easier to rationalize their own shortcomings.

"This thing just kept building every time I talked to them," said their distraught brother, Alven Clark. "They listened to these prophets."

Holed up and watched by FBI agents on a 960-acre farm on the windswept plains near here, the Clarks and a handful of other heavily armed Freemen, indicted on numerous charges of threatening public officials and financial fraud, are facing the full power of the very government they reject.

Richard Clark turned himself in to police Saturday at a residence in central Montana, but the standoff with other Freeman continued.

The arrest last Monday of Mr. Schweitzer, 57, and another leader of the Freemen, Daniel E. Petersen Jr., 53, near the remote compound they call "Justus Township" came none too soon for most of the 450 residents of Jordan, who have waited with mounting impatience for federal authorities to put an end to the strange saga of the Montana Freemen. For more than two years, the Freemen have waged their own private war of intimidation in eastern and central Montana, according to the indictments.



Douglas C. Pizac/The Associated Press

Justus Township, headquarters of the Montana Freemen and site of an ongoing standoff with FBI agents.

Espousing so-called common law, they have invaded courtrooms to hold mock trials of public officials, filed multimillion-dollar liens against them in court, hatched plots to kidnap and intimidate them, sought to defraud financial institutions and merchants of millions of dollars, and taught hundreds of acolytes from around the country how to do the same.

American history is littered with examples of how hard economic times produce hard-edged political splinter groups, but the Freemen of Montana are a particularly virulent strain. Their philosophy, a hodgepodge drawn from the Old Testament, the Magna Carta, the anti-tax Posse Comitatus of the 1980s and a highly selective reading of the constitution, is laced with racism and talk of a Jewish conspiracy, and puts them at the extreme of the Christian patriot movement.

"The Freemen have in effect appointed themselves judge, jury and executioner," said Steven Gardner, research director at the Coalition for Human Dignity in Portland, Oregon. "They are trying to form their own shadow government for a white Christian republic."

The Freemen have found no shortage of followers nationwide. Indictments unsealed in Billings, Montana, last week allege that several hundred people have attended "common law" workshops at Freemen outposts in Roundup, Montana, and here, learning from Mr. Schweitzer and others how to use computers and laser printers to file liens against public officials and then use those fraudulent assets to write bad checks and phony money orders.

The federal indictments allege the Freemen defrauded banks, public agencies and private businesses of some $1.8 million since late 1994, sometimes by writing fraudulent checks for twice the amount due and then demanding refunds.

Authorities in Utah, California, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and elsewhere have uncovered similar schemes and linked the fraud rings to Mr. Schweitzer. Overall, authorities allege that phony money orders worth about $20 million were disseminated as part of the fraud.

For Politicians, a Risky Gamble (Talk Radio) Is Irresistible

By Ernest Tollerson
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Senator Bill Bradley arrived at the radio station KLOL in Houston in February bearing edible gifts — doughnuts for the early-bird disc jockeys scheduled to interview him about his new book.

But as he would soon learn, he was ill-equipped for his appearance on the "Stevens and Pruett Show." As he entered the studio for an hourlong interview, Mr. Bradley caught a glimpse of two women who had just disrobed from the waist up at the request of one of the disc jockeys. The women's assignment: to give Mr. Bradley a topless escort.

"I just kind of walked past them," Mr. Bradley recalled in an interview. "I said 'no, no, no, no, no.' " The women walked out of the studio.

In the radio interview, the two DJs did not devote the hour to discussing "Time Present, Time Past," Mr. Bradley's meditation on the state and future of the nation. Instead, he was peppered with questions on the minds of the DJs while the two women rejoined Mr. Bradley and the DJs in the studio — "totally attired," Mr. Bradley stressed.

The shock-jock ambush that Mr. Bradley endured, and the recent roast of President Bill Clinton by Don Imus, the WFAN radio personality in New York, at the annual dinner of radio and television reporters, are cautionary tales that capture the ritual humiliation politicians try to dodge when they go on the air with the talk radio denizens clustered on the R- to X-rated side of the talk spectrum.

But despite the risks of some talk radio, many politicians eagerly seek out this medium because it offers them a forum where they can deliver their message at more than sound-bite length, unfiltered by questions and probing by the print and broadcast journalists.

Its allure also flows from the politicians' belief that they can reach voters who do not watch network news, public affairs shows and other traditional programming.

Mr. Bradley's publisher, Knopf, booked him on the Stevens and Pruett show presumably because it claims to be No. 1 with men 18 and older and has at least 400,000 listeners each quarter-hour.

Although Mr. Imus's roast of the president was not on talk radio, it was carried and rebroadcast on C-Span last weekend, and it produced the predictable postgame analysis about the propriety of Mr. Imus's jokes in which he questioned Mr. Clinton's marital fidelity and ridiculed Hillary Rodham Clinton's Whitewater woes.

For now, Mr. Imus is having a hard time booking politicians for his program. But there seems to be little focus on how the Imus roast and similar incidents alter the image, perceptions and effectiveness of American political institutions.

"Politicians have become raw material for radio talk shows and TV talk shows," said Mitchell Moss, a New York University professor of politics and urban affairs. "TV shows and radio shows have forced politicians to be comedians and stuntmen or participants" in those settings.

Concern is growing that such appearances can dilute a president's ability to govern or a senator's ability to have his or her policy ideas taken seriously. Few seem willing to assess how prominent politicians and celebrity journalists have helped legitimize Mr. Imus and his peers by being guests on these talk radio shows.

The interaction of politicians and on-the-edge talk radio stars "is draining the dignity, what little dignity we have left in politics," said Professor Larry Sabato, the Robert Kent Gooch professor of government at the University of Virginia. "When you choose to reduce your own dignity, or lower the level of your own dignity," he added, "don't be surprised when talk radio show hosts take advantage of it."

That reality is not lost on political consultants after Mr. Imus's roast of the president. "My guess is it's a plus, plus," said Roger Stone, a Republican consultant who advised Senator Arlen Specter, a former presidential candidate, on his bid for the Republican nomination. "Imus gets enormous coverage, and Clinton looks like an aggrieved party."

The president's re-election campaign team has also had some discussions about the roast but has not changed its policy on appearing on radio talk shows. "I think the appropriate place to draw the line is around bad taste and bad judgment, not categories of communication," said Ann Lewis, deputy campaign manager for the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign.

Mr. Sabato says he believes it is more than a question of taste. When prominent, respected politicians and journalists appear on controversial radio shows, he says, they are legitimizing the radio programs as important forums when in fact so much of what is said on those shows is "trash" and "sleaze."

"The politicians and media celebrities have helped lower standards in part by going on shows" like the Imus program, Mr. Sabato said.

But politicians like Mr. Bradley have an intuitive feel for the reach of the network of more than 1,000 talk shows. "More people come up to me and say 'I heard you on Imus' than ever came up to me and said 'I saw you on 'Face the Nation,' " Mr. Bradley said.



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CAREERS

Resume-Scanning Software Screens Applicants and Sends Rejections

By Glenn Rifkin
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The next time you get hired or transferred, the person you may want to thank or curse may not be a person at all. That is because your fate was decided by a computer.

Companies such as Hewlett-Packard Co., AT&T Corp., Texas Instruments Inc. and Ford Motor Co. have turned to virtual recruiters: software programs that let employers turn the resumes they receive into a database that can be searched to fill job vacancies.

For example, if a company is looking for an engineer with five years' experience who can speak Spanish, the computer will provide a list of candidates who qualify.

This makes it easier for companies, but it puts pressure on job seekers not only to have the attributes the employer is seeking, but also to describe those qualifications on their resumes in a way the computer will recognize. Misspellings in a resume, which used to be merely embarrassing, now could cost you the job.

Giving so much control to a computer raises concerns that a machine will miss the subtleties and nuances of what makes a good employee.

"There is something to be said for using a professional staffing person, because the hiring manager using the software quite often looks just at experience, but doesn't go under the surface to find out what kind of person you are, whether you are a team player, the intangibles," said Jac Fitzenz, director of the Saratoga Institute, a human resources research and consulting firm in Santa Clara, California.

But a human recruiter cannot look for standard qualifications as fast or efficiently as a computer can, he said.

The software helped Elizabeth Richards, who had been working as a marketing representative, get a new job last fall. She was hired by Overnite Transportation Co., a $1 billion division of Union Pacific Corp., after giving the company her resume at a job fair. On her resume, she had included a job she had held earlier in her career as a compensations analyst, writing "base pay plan design, incentive plan design" to describe the post.

That is the job she got. Overnite was looking for a compensations analyst and after scanning her resume into its database, a recruiter typed "base pay plan design, incentive plan design, strong administrative skills and five to seven years experience" as the search parameters.

When the company called her in for an interview, she was startled to find that the company had been so astute as to look beyond her current marketing duties to notice her old job.

"Without the software system, there would have been no connection," Ms. Richards said. "If you file paper resumes by hand, the resume would likely have been filed by the day it came in rather than by my background. I believe so many companies lose potential applicants in the piles of paper."

Resume tracking software, which is sold by companies such as Restrac Corp. in Dedham, Massachusetts, and Resumix Inc. of Sunnyvale, California, for $80,000 to more than $1 million, not only searches by key words, but also helps give the information some context.

Resumix, for example, contains 10 million terms related to several industries. The terms represent specific skills for different professions, like "general ledger" for accountants and "application design" for software developers, that help recruiters conduct their searches. Restrac and Resumix said about 400 companies use their software.

Overnite said the system changed the way it hires people and saved $1.5 million in recruiting costs since it was installed three years ago. The system also automatically sends rejection letters.

"Our recruiters don't have to deal with paper at all," said David Huffer, director of staffing at Overnite.

Hewlett-Packard installed the tracking software about five years ago to handle the 330,000 resumes it receives a year.

James R. Green, manager of the company's employment response center, said the database was accessible to all the company's hiring managers via their desktop computers.

The system has another bonus for job seekers: Resumes remain in the database and a candidate who lost out on one position can easily be identified for a future opening.

"Now when we say we'll put your resume on file, we really mean it," said Edward Kleinert, administrator for human resource information technology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, which uses Restrac to screen up to 30,000 resumes annually.

AT&T, which recently said it would lay off thousands of workers, is using the software to help those employees find different jobs within the company.

A database was created that contains the resumes of laid-off workers and any openings within the company. Another database holds more than 100,000 job openings at 3,000 other companies.

"It is emotional enough to be in a job that is being phased out and find your financial future is clouded," said Burke Stinson, an AT&T spokesman, "but it can be like rubbing salt in the wound to learn that a job that you were quite capable of doing, 100 or 1,000 miles away, was just filled by someone from the street."

Starting in June, it will be even easier for workers to get their resumes into the databases of the companies using the Restrac system. Its clients will be able to connect to the Monster Board (http://www.monster.com), a huge job- and resume-posting site on the World Wide Web, and download resumes directly into their data bases.

"There's been a dramatic change in the way hiring was done 20 years ago," Mr. Fitz-enz said. "With scanning systems and key word search and retrieval software, large companies are able to put all applications from around the country into one central database."

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Swear Off Empire

The latest unwelcome detour in Russia's transition from communism to democracy is serious talk in Moscow of reconstituting the Soviet Union or some variation of it. It is alarming to find this idea back in vogue so soon after the repressive Soviet empire was broken up. Responsible political leaders in Russia must strongly oppose the notion that the Kremlin might someday seek to reassert control over its neighbors.

For now, the possibility of a new imperial Russia seems extremely remote. Moscow is preoccupied with domestic problems. It lacks the wealth and military power to reclaim the former territories of the Soviet Union, most of which fiercely prize their newly won independence. The once feared Russian army is a gutted, demoralized force that in 15 months of fighting has been unable to subdue even the irregulars of Chechnya.

Over the next few years, Russia may develop benign forms of voluntary economic and political union with several of the newly independent states on its border. On Friday, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Belarus signed an agreement to form a common market. The Slavic peoples of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine share cultural, religious and linguistic connections that draw them together even as distinct national identities pull them apart. Belarus and Russia were already moving toward closer ties and previously announced plans to form a political union of sorts. Both countries may profit if the partnership is balanced and they cooperate in dealing with common economic and environmental problems.

Yet even this relationship has obvious disadvantages for both Moscow and Minsk. With its unsteady economy, the last thing Russia needs is the burden of supporting Belarus's failing industrial base. After decades under Soviet rule, Belarus knows that it must guard against partnership with a country accustomed to dictating terms to its smaller neighbors.

But over the longer term, especially if a Communist or nationalist is elected president of Russia, the threat of Russian territorial expansion cannot be utterly dismissed. The loss of empire and superpower status rankles many Russians. Several presidential candidates, including Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, have preyed on the resentment with vague promises to restore Moscow's dominion. The Parliament, dominated by Communists and nationalists, recently approved a nonbinding resolution disavowing the 1991 treaty that dissolved the Soviet Union.

Imperial aspirations are fueled by a widespread view that Moscow must do something to protect the interests of the 30 million ethnic Russians who remained behind in the former Soviet republics when the union collapsed in 1991. Almost overnight, Russians in places like Lithuania, Estonia and Uzbekistan went from a privileged, protected elite to a scorned minority.

There are more than a few Russians on the political fringe, mostly unrepentant Communists and extreme nationalists, who believe that the collapse of the Soviet Union was engineered by the CIA and other Western spy services to open Russia's natural resources to outside exploitation. For them, Russian hegemony is a birthright that must be restored.

Boris Yeltsin is navigating cautiously through these rapids as he campaigns for re-election as president. His endorsement of the proposed union between Russia and Belarus and Friday's common market agreement were clearly designed to convince voters that he can expand Russia's influence. His quick denunciation of the parliamentary resolution rejecting the dissolution of the Soviet Union shows that he knows there are limits.

While his equivocal approach may seem politically shrewd, Mr. Yeltsin would do his countrymen a favor if he addressed the issue squarely and made plain to everyone that Russia undermines its own interests by harboring territorial ambitions. Mr. Zyuganov, for his part, should recognize that any claim he makes to responsible leadership is discredited by his manipulation of this issue. There is no place for a new empire in Russia's future.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Intelligence Reform

The high energy has gone out of post-Cold War American efforts to "reform" intelligence. Mostly it is coming down to improving management. Not that the CIA and the 12 other intelligence agencies are now fully responsive to policy needs, accountable for operational and analytical lapses and "rightsized" and efficient — the familiar goals of reform. But it seems that some inside reform was already going on, and fresh scandals — the Ames spy case, the Guatemala killings, the financial spookery of the National Reconnaissance Office, the misreading of Soviet omens — gave it a boost. John Deutch, director of central intelligence and head of the CIA, gets credit for following through.

Earlier calls for sweeping change have further been muffled by the preparation of several outside reports. In 1994 an Ames-shocked Democratic Congress authorized a major study of intelligence "roles and capabilities" by congressional and presidential appointees led by former Democratic Secretary of Defense Harold Brown (taking over from the late Les Aspin) and former Republican Senator Warren Rudman. Republicans captured Congress that fall and launched competing inquiries. So now reform proposals are in hand or coming soon from the Brown study, from John Deutch as head of an administration task force and, separately, from the House and Senate overseers.

Of these four, the Brown study, although it rocks no boats, has the best claim for outside credibility. By contrast, the House report dulls its own edge by promoting a congressional role not simply as an investigator but as an advocate. It is the public that needs Congress as an advocate, not the agencies, whose budgets ($28-30 billion) and powers ensure them no shortage of advocacy of their own.

Outsiders acquainted with the capacity of the intelligence "community" to resist both centralized management and informed oversight are bound to be skeptical even of the Brown study. It is mainly a management directive that bravely undertakes to strengthen the powers and controls available at the policy level and to beef up the director of central intelligence as the president's leading intelligence adviser. There are sensible, mainstream recommendations on making intelligence more useful to political, military and diplomatic "consumers," on preserving a covert operations capability and so on. The study is protective — too protective — of the intelligence budget, and visionary in asking for a one-year suspension of personnel rules to buy out a bulge of Soviet-bloc hands.

Six years into the post-Cold War period, the debate on the most important thing — intelligence — has pretty much yielded to a consensus holding that the product is already good, and is essential to American global interests, and must and can be improved. A fix-up, not a revolution, is indicated. Overall, the parties arguing out reform are not unconcerned with their own institutional interests. But the president has yet to get into the center of a necessary nitty-gritty discussion bearing first and foremost on his own duties and powers. He should.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

How Taipei and Beijing Can Seize the Moment

By Ralph A. Cossa

HONOLULU — President Lee Teng-hui has several options.

He could choose to continue Taiwan's steady drive for increased international recognition without explicitly abandoning the "one China" principle. Some rapprochement in cross-strait relations might be possible.

Or Mr. Lee could follow the path most feared by Beijing — an intensified drive toward Taiwan's "independence," either stated or strongly implied. While he is wise enough not to make an outright declaration, he could take steps that would leave his intentions unambiguously clear, at least in the minds of Beijing's leaders.

One such step would be to press for an official visit to Washington. To his credit, Mr. Lee understands that this would be seen by Beijing as "crossing the line." So he has stated that he "does not have time for foreign visits."

A third option would be to extend a genuine olive branch to Beijing in an attempt to find a formula for peaceful resolution of the China-Taiwan issue. Mr. Lee has already taken one positive step in this direction by announcing that he will submit legislation to establish special trade districts to facilitate direct links with the mainland. Beijing has long sought to open direct travel, trade and communications with Taiwan.

But a more dramatic gesture seems warranted. Mr. Lee could move the peace process forward by offering, without preconditions, to go to Beijing or to meet Jiang Zemin, China's president, on such "neutral" ground as Hong Kong or China's Hainan Island.

For this to work, Beijing would also have to show some flexibility and restraint. This may not be as unlikely as current Chinese behavior suggests. Mr. Jiang appears eager to find a long-term solution to the Taiwan problem. He would like to put it back on the shelf so that he can concentrate on his more important tasks of consolidating his own power and ensuring China's continued economic prosperity.

Beijing has made clear that there is no timetable for reunification. It accepts the democratic process on Taiwan, so long as it does not lead to a declaration of independence that threatens China's sovereignty and national pride. They have repeatedly signaled a willingness to engage in direct discussions with Taiwan's leaders.

A genuine overture by Mr. Lee toward Beijing, one that keeps the fig leaf of "one country, two systems" intact, creates a win-win situation for Taiwan and the mainland, one which Mr. Jiang may find too tempting to reject.

It remains the task of both sides to develop the exact formula for reconciliation, but one can envision some type of Chinese "confederation" that satisfies Beijing's primary concern of preserving the "one China" principle, while meeting Taipei's fully justified quest for increased recognition.

Both sides should be able to agree to a road map for eventual reunification based on a "one country, two systems" or, perhaps better, a "one country, two entities" formula. A loose confederation could be established now, with each side maintaining separate foreign and domestic policies. At a designated point in the future, Taiwan residents would then vote for full incorporation or continuation of the confederation.

In the interim, under such an agreement, Taiwan could accept the mainland's right to the confederation's permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council in return for dual representation in the UN General Assembly, similar to the old Cold War formula that gave the Soviet Union additional separate seats in the assembly for Ukraine and Byelorussia.

This is only one possible formula; better ones may be developed. The key is to take into account the legitimate concerns and desires of both sides.

President Lee is at a historic crossroad. The path that best guarantees Taiwan's future peace and prosperity, and Mr. Lee's place in history, runs through Beijing. He should follow that path — and Mr. Jiang should clearly signal that he will be there to greet the Taiwanese leader in the spirit of compromise and reconciliation.

The writer is executive director of Pacific Forum CSIS, a Honolulu-based policy research institute affiliated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Israelis Should Choose Tough Peace, Not Fantasy or Despair

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — I knew an Israeli colonel who had commanded Israeli troops in both southern Lebanon and the West Bank, and I once asked him what was the difference between the two. Well, he said, on the West Bank, because of media and government scrutiny, "you have to explain every little move you make to 10 different people." But in southern Lebanon you could do whatever you wanted.

"In south Lebanon, there is nothing between you and God Almighty. The only question you ask yourself when you are going to blow up someone's house is whether to use 50 kilos of dynamite or 25 kilos."

I was reminded of that conversation when I read about the Hezbollah suicide bomber who two weeks ago killed an Israeli officer in southern Lebanon. There the Israeli army can kick in any door, burst into any mosque. And yet, despite that freedom of operation, Israeli soldiers continue to die there, because they simply have no answer for suicide bombers.

As an Israeli soldier involved in the latest incident explained when asked why he didn't shoot the Lebanese suicide bomber on sight: "We are not trained to shoot people in civilian clothes who are crossing the street."

I raise this point now because Israel's Likud leader, Bibi Netanyahu, and some of his tough-talking colleagues peddle the argument that if elected they will know how to deal with Palestinian terrorism better than the Labor government. Nonsense. Israel has not been able to eliminate 100 percent of terrorism from Lebanon, where it has a totally free hand. Likud would do no better in the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu is vague about his plan, but it seems to go like this. Israeli troops will go in, when necessary, and surgically wipe out Palestinian militants already living under Palestinian control. Politically, Israel will freeze the peace process at its present stage and offer the Palestinians permanent autonomy in the West Bank — without the removal of a single Jewish settlement and without Mr. Netanyahu ever having to meet Yasser Arafat.

That approach is a fatuous illusion. But Mr. Netanyahu knows that Israel's silent majority wants there to be a peace process. So he has come up with this fantasy peace process, for which there will never be any Palestinian partners.

There is only one real peace process and it is the one launched by Yitzhak Rabin, based on gradually ceding to Palestinians control over their own lives and land in return for peace and security. It may well be that Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian people are not capable of living up to this deal. But if so, the peace process is over, and Israelis will have to man the barricades.

I only hope that before Israelis grasp for the fantasy peace process offered by Mr. Netanyahu, or opt for the barricades, they will explore a third option — a better peace process, one that learns from the mistakes of the past year.

That is a process which remains committed to the strategic goal of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation and separation but moves much more slowly, pays much more attention to Mr. Arafat's leadership weaknesses and seriously holds his feet to the fire on compliance with every peace provision.

But it is also a peace process which looks for more ways to help Mr. Arafat overcome his weaknesses, and does more to help Palestinians create jobs in Gaza and the West Bank.

Listening to the debate in Israel, you can hear that many people don't want to abandon the peace process, because that would mean a future full of yesterdays. But Israelis don't want to be played for fools, either.

I have always believed that the real strength of Israeli society has been its ability to survive, and even thrive, amid the violence of life in the Middle East and through all the ups and downs of the peace process. I hope it is that strength that Israelis will reach for now — not the fantasy of peace without pain or the despair of no peace at all.

This strength to endure was captured after the latest spate of suicide bombings, when the government canceled the Purim holiday celebrations in schools. A schoolboy asked on television: "Why did they cancel Purim? These suicide bombings are going to happen, but Purim only comes once a year."

The New York Times.

The Bad News From Kurdistan Is Bad for Washington, Too

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Robert Deutsch, the State Department's top expert on Gulf affairs, may find more than he bargains for when he goes to northern Iraq this month on a fact-finding mission. He will be staring at an impending American failure that is tragic in its scope and predictability.

Mr. Deutsch will find a Kurdistan once friendly to American leaders and goals riven by civil war and increasingly falling under Iranian sway. He will be confronted with a bungled, bloody CIA covert operation. And he will find the Iraqi democrats who were promised significant U.S. help in toppling Saddam Hussein five years ago in despair over the subsequent American drift and neglect.

The Deutsch trip brings the Clinton administration to a moment of truth on its policy toward the Kurds, the Iraqi opposition and Saddam Hussein.

Without a renewed and redirected U.S. commitment, now, much of the good work that the U.S. military has done in protecting the Kurds from Saddam's genocide may be undone by a general collapse in Kurdistan, the focus of enormous conflicting pressures from Iran, Syria, Turkey and Saddam's forces.

The Kurdish regional government that was supposed to have displaced Baghdad's rule over the area's 3.5 million people has disintegrated. Kurdish leaders Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani have been fighting each other for the past year rather than cooperating to topple Saddam. A Kurdish peace agreement negotiated under U.S. auspices in Ireland last November has gone unimplemented, in part because the Clinton administration will not commit several million dollars to fund a neutral local force to police the accord.

Iran backed Mr. Barzani in the local battles and has now pressured him into signing a cooperation agreement with the Kurdistan Workers Party, a rebel Marxist group known by its Kurdish initials PKK, which is at war with the Turkish government. As the Iranians intended, this creates another headache for Washington.

Mr. Deutsch may find Turkey preparing a new cross-border military strike into Kurdistan, despite large political and economic costs that Turkey paid for a sustained assault last year on Iraq's Kurdish villages in search of PKK guerrillas.

This mess is not what Washington had in mind for Kurdistan, which rose up against Baghdad as the Gulf war ended and has been protected by U.S., British and French warplanes based in Turkey since.

The most embarrassing U.S. failure in Kurdistan is that of the CIA, which backed the wrong horse. Instead of working closely with the fractious Kurds and the mainstream Iraqi National Congress, an opposition group with its own agenda of a long political struggle against Saddam, the agency centered its covert program around a more easily manipulable faction styled as the Iraqi National Accord, or Wafaq, in Arabic.

The Accord's leaders were Saddam cronies before defecting from Baghdad. They were well connected to Saudi Arabia's intelligence arm. The Accord leaders promised that with CIA help they could mount a quick coup or otherwise dispose of Saddam and his lieutenants.

They did not achieve those goals. But one of the key bombmakers in the group has now disclosed that bombs financed at least indirectly by the CIA have killed scores of Iraqi civilians in Baghdad and destroyed the regional headquarters of the rival National Congress in the Kurdish city of Salahuddin.

These disclosures are contained in a startling 90-minute videotape made by Abu Amneh Khaddam, who confirms on the tape that the Accord leader Iyad Mohammed Alawi received money to finance a bombing campaign from a CIA mission established in northern Iraq to support the Accord.

Mr. Khaddam smuggled copies of the videotape to Iraqi opposition groups in London, apparently in a desperate bid to switch allegiance to them by denouncing his bosses in the Accord. Existence of the tape was first referred to last week by the London newspaper The Independent. Mr. Khaddam's assertions have since been confirmed to me by other sources aware of Accord activities.

This represents an all too familiar failure by the agency, which prefers to buy people rather than work with independent political forces. The CIA defends its covert programs by saying it has to deal with people who are not angels if it is to be effective. What it does not explain is why it consistently deals with corrupt incompetents.

Recent U.S. actions in Kurdistan have ranged from the timid to the bizarre. There is plenty of material here for a congressional inquiry, a campaign debate or both.

The Washington Post.

Zorza Saw Communism Dying

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — One cold winter day in the 1960s, we Moscow correspondents drove out to the airport to greet Egypt's Gamel Abdel Nasser. Bored at waiting, somebody idly noted that one Politburo member's picture was missing from the row of soldier-carried placards. Wow! News! Power struggle! Purge! Our wild speculations ended when the crowd parted and a bareheaded soldier carrying the absent placard ran up, chased by a cursing officer.

We had been practicing junk Kremlinology.

I dredge this up because the pioneer of high Kremlinology, Victor Zorza of the Manchester Guardian, who wrote also for The Washington Post, died in London last week at age 70. In this time of an open Russian society with a surfeit of sources, it may seem strange that Westerners took up such an unscientific method of studying their Cold War adversary. But the times had generated a great demand for insight. Kremlinology was an emergency response.

On a basic level, it involved checking, for instance, photos of the leadership to see who was up or down. On Victor Zorza's level, it meant winnowing Soviet public texts for leads to a hidden political and policy-making process. The technique invited selectivity, superficiality and bias. Victor did better than most in bringing a broad political understanding as a corrective.

The resulting speculations produced major predictive scoops, among them the Moscow-Beijing split, Nikita Khrushchev's rise and fall and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Single-handedly, Victor drove up the standards of the whole Kremlinological community, not least the intelligence people.

Post-Stalin society was liberalizing by degrees. New sources were becoming available: détente-seeking officials of the two countries, participants in exchanges, dissidents, aspiring emigrants, spy cameras in the sky.

Victor welcomed being rendered obsolete. It meant not simply a success of his analysis but a success in historical ideas. Reading between the Soviet lines, he had come to believe in the triumph of the "reformers" over the "conservatives." He suggested, only a few years too soon, that "within 15 years we shall see the Communist world adopt many of the political practices we regard as democratic."

Writing in The Washington Post in 1975, he badly overdid Leonid Brezhnev's bent for reform. But a full decade before Mikhail Gorbachev, he suggested that "a younger, more energetic leader, who is prepared to do battle against the vested interests of the bureaucracy, may after a time come to promote [détentist] policies even more vigorously, and more effectively, than Brezhnev did."

To create the necessary domestic conditions, "a younger leader might seek to revive the anti-Stalinist sentiment which Khrushchev used to such good effect, and thus stimulate the internal reforms without which the Soviet Union will not be able to take its proper place in the world."

Kremlinology is not enjoying a happy retirement. A common indictment is that the breed failed to foresee the collapse of Soviet Communist power. For their lapse, the liberals among them are accused not simply of an analytical failing but of a political one — not perceiving either the fundamental indecency of communism or its incipient rot.

Victor Zorza in recent years had abandoned politics, and as far as I know he did not pronounce on what has become the leading historical and political controversy of the post-Soviet day. Did the demise of Soviet power flow, and in what measure, from the ripening of the internal contradictions that he early and clearly saw — and which Mr. Gorbachev finally acted on? Or did the Cold War come to an end, and at the time it did, chiefly under the hammer of Ronald Reagan? Or somewhere in between?

By my lights, Victor's policy views have not weathered so well as his analysis. He felt that the West could intervene to its own advantage in Soviet foreign-policy and investment debates by making concessions to Kremlin doves. He did not consider that those concessions might then promptly be pocketed by hawks. Mr. Reagan understood that. It made him want first to secure concessions from the hawks.

Victor Zorza's contribution lies elsewhere: in practically inventing a method of looking through the Iron Curtain, and in upholding a vision — one which Mr. Reagan came to share — that it would finally come down.

The Washington Post.

Other Comment

Cannibal Cows

The practice of feeding animal materials to cattle, and particularly materials carrying the sheep disease scrapie, is widely believed to lie at the root of the current crisis over "mad cow" disease. The modern theory is that an abnormal protein called a prion passed, by this route, from one species to another. [But] it seems that it is not because we have fed animal products to herbivores and turned cows into cannibals that we have this mess. There is nothing new nor especially British about the practice, even if most people and some farmers have only just found out about it.

The long history of the practice suggests that it is not intrinsically dangerous. We have bovine spongiform encephalopathy now because we ceased to process these animal products with sufficient care.

— Mark Watts in the Independent on Sunday (London).

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IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: Men Meet Match

PARIS — M. Doumer, Minister of Finances, received the delegates of the matchmakers employed in the State match works on Monday evening [March 30] and addressed them on the subject of the introduction of the American Diamond match machine into the works. He said that when the machinery was introduced everything would be done to prevent the men whose services would no longer be needed from suffering. Some would receive pensions, some would be given other work and others would be compensated.

1921: Empty Mines

LONDON — At midnight tonight [March 31] the coal mines of Britain, the most solid foundation of the Empire's modern industrial greatness, went idle. Whether a strike or a lock-out, technically, it will probably have to be settled by the courts. The miners are going to claim unemployment pay, as being locked out, but the owners insist that the mines are open for any man to work under the new conditions.

1946: New Nazis Foiled

FRANKFURT — Striking simultaneously at one minute after midnight in 306 towns and villages in Western Germany, American and British Counter Intelligence agents this morning [March 31] broke up the first Nazi underground organization to appear since the occupation began. The organization was headed by Artur Axmann, former head of the Hitler Jugend, and was aimed at perpetuating Nazi idealism by quietly influencing German political leaders. Axmann was arrested last December, but the bulk of his followers knew nothing about his disappearance and continued organising.

INTERNATIONAL

Anti-Terror Talks: Good Will Prevails

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The upbeat solidarity that marked the March 13 anti-terrorism summit conference in Egypt had given way to palpable edginess by the time delegates from 27 countries convened at the State Department last week for a two-day session to discuss carrying out the summit resolutions.

Arab delegates, supported by some Europeans, were complaining that the agenda focused only on terrorism against Israelis by Palestinian extremists and ignored what they saw as unfair and provocative Israeli retaliation that imposed collective punishment on the Palestinians.

Arab diplomats and visiting Arab officials said Israel's closure of its borders with the West Bank and Gaza Strip was contributing to extremism by depriving tens of thousands of Palestinians of their livelihoods.

They also complained that Israel's practice of blowing up the homes of suspected terrorists' families fueled anti-Israeli sentiment. They wanted the conference to address these issues, not just methods of combating Hamas suicide bombers.

By the time the follow-up conference ended Friday, however, much of the good will appeared to have been restored. Prodded by Egypt, France and other participants, the United States broadened the agenda to include the plight of the Palestinians and terrorism throughout the region, not just attacks on Israelis. Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher also announced a new U.S.-brokered plan to expand international economic assistance to the Palestinians.

Arab participants declared themselves placated, if not fully satisfied, and agreed to submit formal recommendations on issues to be considered at a foreign ministers' meeting, probably April 22 in Luxembourg.

"This ended up being a very balanced conference," said Ambassador Ahmed Maher el Sayed of Egypt. "Yesterday I was a bit worried, but we managed to put the conference on the right track with a balanced discussion, not just the agenda of one party."

"It's more positive," said another Arab ambassador. "The atmosphere was better. Now what's important is quick implementation" of recommendations for enhanced economic aid to the Palestinians.

Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian delegate, told Arab reporters that he was moderately encouraged by the changed tone, although he said the Palestinians did not get everything they were seeking.

The transformation of the atmosphere began when Mr. Christopher announced Thursday that he, Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, had agreed on "an emergency plan designed to improve the economic situation in Gaza and the West Bank."

In announcing the agreement, which includes a partial reopening of Israel's borders to commercial Palestinian traffic, Mr. Christopher said, "We must find way to support the Palestinian people as they too suffer the consequences of Hamas bombings."

That, Arab delegates said, was the first U.S. statement of recognition that the aftermath of the bombings has caused hardship for Palestinians as well as Israelis.

Palestinian delegates delivered what one official called "some dramatic descriptions of what the conditions are in the West Bank and Gaza — not in a way to cause confrontation, but to emphasize the urgency of finding solutions."

The measures announced by Mr. Christopher, such as increasing the number of trucks allowed to carry building materials into Gaza, failed to resolve the basic contradiction facing the conference: How to improve the lives of the Palestinians and increase their stake in peace while tens of thousands of them have been deprived of their livelihoods by the measures Israel has taken to protect itself from suicide bombers.

Japanese officials, for example, came to the follow-up conference prepared to contribute $10 million to a "job creation fund" for Palestinians but acknowledged the paradox of doing that while the Palestinians cannot get to jobs they already have.

Canada Cuts Catch To Save Its Salmon

By Anne Swardson
Washington Post Service

TORONTO — Fearing a repeat of the devastation of East Coast fishing in recent years, Canada has announced that it will reduce West Coast salmon fishing by half as the industry faces one of the poorest salmon seasons in a generation.

For years, the number of salmon returning from the ocean to their home rivers in British Columbia has been dropping, and experts have warned of a repeat of the disaster that struck the Atlantic. There, off the coast of Newfoundland, about 40,000 fishermen and workers in fish plants were thrown out of work. The government virtually shut down all cod fishing in the early 1990s to allow what few fish were left to multiply.

The West Coast salmon fishery remains more plentiful. But it also is the subject of intense disputes between commercial fishermen, sports interests and Indians, each of which thinks the other group is allowed to catch too many salmon. Over the years, the government essentially has tried to appease these interests by allowing too many fishing vessels to chase too few fish.

In addition, higher-tech boats, river pollution and a slight warming of the oceans have reduced the number of salmon. Unless it can rebuild the stocks, Canada risks losing its fishing industry on both coasts.

The federal government said Friday it would spend nearly $60 million to buy fishing licenses back from fishermen by this summer and take other measures that together will reduce the number of vessels fishing salmon in Canadian Pacific waters by half, to 2,200.

Lower limits on catches and restrictions on new licenses also will be implemented; the possibility remains that all fishing on British Columbia's largest river, the Fraser, will also be prohibited.

"These are bold, tough but necessary measures if we are going to be successful in revitalizing the industry," said Fisheries Minister Fred Mifflin. "Put very simply, the fish come first."

The new conservation measures do not directly affect American salmon fishermen from Washington, Oregon and Alaska who do most of their fishing in Alaskan waters north of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

Because Pacific salmon do not recognize international boundaries as they make their four-year journey into the ocean, through Alaskan waters and back to their riverbed spawning grounds, Canada and the United States have negotiated — unsuccessfully — for years to agree on limits for each other's salmon.

Those negotiations, which also involve differences between Alaska on the one hand and Washington and Oregon on the other, broke down earlier this month.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy of Canada discussed the salmon issue extensively with Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher in Washington last week, and it was agreed something had to be done. There was no decision as to what, according to U.S. sources.

LANGUAGE

How to Reduce Increases

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — "Those hard-hearted Hannahs are going to cut Medicare," say the liberals.

"We're not cutting a thing," say the conservatives. "We're reducing the rate of increase." This is followed by a labored explanation of how the net amount being spent is more, but less than it would have been if the current rate of increase were allowed to run amok.

"Might there not be a word in Greek or Latin," asks Otto A. Silha in Minneapolis, "that would mean 'reduced increase' for use instead of 'cuts' in future fiscal debates?"

I made a quick run of the traps. Frank Abate of Dictionary and Reference Specialists in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, responded: "I know of no such word. Do you like *deincrementalization*?"

No. Tried Hugh Rawson, director of Penguin Reference Books: "A new word for budget balancers to use when increasing expenditures in real terms, but not by enough to account for inflation or to cover projected costs of serving larger numbers of people?"

That's an artful restatement of the problem, but what's the word? "I offer *necrement*, from Latin *nec*, 'not,' plus *crescere*, 'to grow' (and also the root of *increment*). The budget balancer could explain that 'the *necremental* increase is such-and-such.'"

Good try, but *necrement* sounds too much like a euphemism for a scatological epithet. Maybe the Neologic Nellies can solve the problem. These are the people who go about coining words and waiting for them to become part of the language; when they don't, the Neologic Nellies send them to me and wonder what's wrong with the rest of the world.

Wordrobe, for example, coined by June Gundersen, of Brooklyn, New York, in 1984, meaning "the vocabulary with which we cloak our emotions." Or *greedlock*, by David Ebbitt, of Newport, Rhode Island, to denote the state of overcrowding caused by avaricious builders.

These are good words that never made it. But be careful about claiming to be the coiner of your favorite neologism: I thought I had a beaut a few weeks ago — *digivision*, a shortening of "digital television." Used it twice in a column, admiring how it saved space and came easily to the tongue.

Then in comes a letter from Sherman E. DeForest, of San Diego, president of DigiVision: "We own rights to the word in the United States, and limited rights worldwide. In Great Britain, another DigiVision produces computer monitors, and ITT has limited rights to the marque in Germany." He says to cease using DigiVision's trademark as a generic.

Maybe that tricky capital V in the middle weakens his case, but I won't challenge it; somebody else was present at the creation. Neologic Nellies soon find that is all too often the case.

□

"What is your opinion of Tom Brokaw's use of *as well* in lieu of *also*?" asks T.H. Scarbrough, of Water Valley, Mississippi. "He always says, 'The NASDAQ was up *as well*.'"

Also and *as well* are adverbs, and are synonymous — both meaning "in addition" and "too." But if you take a dive into syntax — that mysterious programming inside our heads that makes natives out of speakers — you will note a difference.

John Algeo, the neologism expert for American Speech, notes that the difference is "one of restricted privilege of occurrence." *Also* can go just about anywhere in a sentence; *as well* cannot. "*Also* looks in both directions," says Algeo, "whereas *as well* is only retrospective or regressive."

Let's try it: "Jack Kemp also supports the flat tax." "Also, Jack Kemp supports the flat tax." "Jack Kemp supports the flat tax also." The placement affects the meaning, but the *also* fits naturally everywhere. Now go try that with *as well*: it fits everywhere except in front; nobody, not even Steve Forbes, would say, "*As well*, Jack Kemp supports my flat tax." Nor would you say, "Jack Kemp is *as well* supporting the flat tax." It must follow the focused-on word or phrase, not precede it: "Jack Kemp *as well* supports the flat tax" if you're emphasizing the supporter, and "Jack Kemp supports the flat tax *as well*" if you're emphasizing the range of positions the supporter supports.

That's not my rule: that's your internal voice of syntax, sometimes stronger than your conscience, telling you, "*As well* always comes behind the word it focuses on."

New York Times Service

BOOKS

BLOOD SPORT: The President and His Adversaries

By James B. Stewart. 448 pages. $24.95. Simon & Schuster.

Reviewed by
Jonathan Yardley

JAMES B. Stewart says in his prologue to "Blood Sport" that two years ago he was approached by Susan Thomases, the New York lawyer who enjoys an especially close relationship to Bill and Hillary Clinton, about writing an inside account of the Whitewater affair that would have the Clintons' full and unconditional cooperation.

Stewart, a respected investigative reporter and author of "Den of Thieves," the devastating best seller about inside trading on Wall Street, was tempted, but as matters began to sort themselves out the Clintons got cold feet and the project never got under way.

Still, Stewart's curiosity was piqued, perhaps all the more so because of the Clintons' ambivalence about the project. He went off on his own, with research assistance, and "Blood Sport" is the result. It will give little comfort to many in official Washington, which Stewart accurately calls a "culture so inured to partisan distortion and spin that truth is the most frightening prospect of all," because scarcely a soul on any side of the dispute comes off favorably in his telling of the tale. But those who are interested in solving rather than perpetuating the Whitewater mystery will find much here to satisfy their curiosity, and much to infuriate them.

The details of Whitewater as recounted by Stewart are no less tedious or trivial than they have been in other journalists' hands; this is not a reflection upon Stewart but the inevitable result of dealing with penny-ante material.

Whitewater as Stewart recounts it is largely the doing of Jim McDougal, the eccentric Arkansas real estate operator and dabbler in politics who took young Bill Clinton under his wing in the 1970s. The 230-acre (93-hectare) tract along the White River that has caused so much trouble was just another of his get-rich-quick schemes; it stands out from the others mainly because he persuaded the governor of Arkansas and his wife to go in as partners.

The story as it evolves after that is largely a comedy of errors involving a cast of bumblers and buffoons, some of whom now occupy high national office; its one ghastly note is the death by suicide of Vincent Foster, the Little Rock lawyer who came to Washington with his friends the Clintons and soon was broken, as he wrote shortly before his death, by "the spotlight of public life in Washington," where "ruining people is considered sport."

Apart from that, it is a seemingly endless tale of small-time venality, carelessness, hypocrisy, conflicts of interest and impropriety, little of it of urgent interest to law-enforcement officers but all of it inflated to gargantuan dimensions by the refusal of both Clintons to try the simple expedient of telling the truth.

As best I can tell, the truth is what Stewart has gotten his hands on. The Clintons' real estate and commodities dealings in Arkansas seem little more than the misadventures of a couple of financial naifs who thought they could make a quick killing and were wholly insensitive to the impropriety of doing so while in office. In legal terms there's probably enough to justify a few smart slaps on their wrists, but Stewart's indictment of the Clintons is on broader and deeper grounds.

In essence, the indictment is that not merely have the Clintons shied away from the truth, they have actively sought to suppress it. The entirely delicious irony is that in the process they have made the incident seem far larger than in fact it ever was.

The evidence that the Clintons committed any serious legal offenses, Stewart writes at the end, is slender, and charges that Foster was murdered, "even that the Clintons may have been involved, are preposterous."

"The Clintons seized what seemed to be opportunities to make easy money, even when that meant accepting favors or special treatment from people in business regulated by the state"; their "reckless" handling of their Whitewater investment apparently came about "because they expected others to take care of them by virtue of their power and prestige as the governor and his wife"; and "the pattern of evasions, half-truths and misstatements that have characterized the Clintons' handling of the story" is inexplicable. It seems likely to remain so.

In all of this only one person seems to have told Bill Clinton that "the important thing was to do the right thing, without regard to immediate reactions," that he should look to the judgment of history rather than that of his enemies and the press. The person who offered that advice was Bernard Nussbaum, Clinton's White House counsel. Not merely did Clinton fail to listen, he eased Nussbaum out of office as Whitewater heated up and the circle closed ever more tightly. Nussbaum, it may be recalled, was laughed out of town.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE game's most dramatic world championship occurred in Bermuda in 1975. The Italian players included Giorgio Belladonna, Benito Garozzo, Arturo Franco and Vito Pittala. With 26 deals left, the Italian victory streak seemed over: North America led by 56 imps.

But in an astonishing surge, the Italians gained 81 and won by 25.

Italians lean toward takeout doubles that lack the usual distributional requirements, and Pittala as South accordingly doubled the one-club opening. His partner's cue-bid of two clubs let them find the spade fit and reach game.

East won the club lead with the king, an attempt at deception, and shifted to the diamond jack. Pittala could now assume a normal spade split, since East would no doubt have continued clubs if he were aware of a 4-1 division. The diamond jack was likely to be a singleton, for its play would be risky with a doubleton or tripleton.

South therefore ruled out the possibility that East held a doubleton spade king and three diamonds, and did not finesse in trumps. Instead, he won with the diamond king, cashed the spade ace and played another. This prevented the diamond ruff and the contract was made.

In the replay, East opened two clubs, a natural bid. North-South now failed to locate their spade fit, and the Italians gained 10 imps en route to the Blue Team's 16th and last world championship victory.

NORTH
♠ J 6 3 2
♡ A 10 6 2
◇ A 10 6 2
♣ 3

WEST (D) | EAST
♠ K 10 9 | ♠ 7 5
♡ 9 5 4 | ♡ K J 7 3
◇ 9 8 3 | ◇ J
♣ 10 9 8 6 | ♣ A K Q J 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 4
♡ Q 6
◇ K Q 7 5 4
♣ 5 4

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

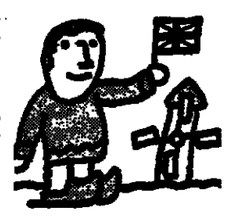
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.
Pass	2 ♣	Dbl.	2 ◇
3 ♣	3 ◇	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ◇
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the club ten.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• **Ferdinand de Bakker,** president of the Burson-Marsteller/Europe public relations firm, is reading James Michener's *"The Covenant."*

"What I find interesting about this historical treatment of South Africa is it makes clear that although the British won the Boer War, in the end the Boers and Dutch culture won." *(Erik Ipsen, IHT)*



Cuban Communist Party Tightens Ideological Reins

By Larry Rohter
New York Times Service

HAVANA — Warning of what it described as a campaign by the United States to "deceive, confuse and dismantle" the Cuban revolution, the Cuban Communist Party has called for strengthening ideological and economic orthodoxy and threatened "severe punishment" for those who failed to comply.

The party's Central Committee endorsed a harder political line against what were said to be Washington-supported "Trojan horses" and "fifth columnists" in its midst at a meeting 10 days ago. Reports of the rare full session, held behind closed doors, only began to emerge last week.

Party leaders also sharply criticized features of the limited opening of the economy in the last three years that has rescued the Cuban economy from the brink of collapse, demanding increased self-reliance and discipline instead.

The actions come at a moment when relations between Cuba and the United States are unusually tense, the result of the episode on Feb. 24 in which the Cuban Air Force shot down two light planes belonging to a Miami-based Cuban exile group.

In retaliation, President Bill Clinton signed the Helms-Burton Act, which intensifies and extends the longstanding U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

Cuban citizens, dissidents and foreign diplomats have expressed concern at the tone of the documents emerging from the party meeting, saying they augur a period of increased repression and retrenchment.

"This is a sea change in terms of moving to a much more rigid ideological position and a much more absolute control by the party of everything," said one diplomat here.

In a report to the party conference published last week in Granma, the official newspaper of the Communist Party, Defense Minister Raúl Castro, the country's second-most-powerful figure, argued that Cuba must at all costs avoid reforms of the type that "undermined the Soviet Union and other socialist countries."

Self-employed workers and intellectuals here are being used by Cuba's enemies, he complained, to weaken the authority of the party and the state and must be brought back into line.

Fidel Castro led the two-day party plenum, the first since 1992. The full text of his remarks has not yet been made public, but Granma reported that he had told the 212 members of the Central Committee that the meeting marked "the start of an intense ideological battle" requiring the mobilization "of the people as a whole."

The country is experiencing "particularly difficult and dangerous moments," President Castro, who is also the party leader, was reported to have warned.

Ricardo Alarcón, the speaker of Cuba's Parliament, said in an interview that the Central Committee session was to be followed by "thousands of meetings throughout the country to discuss this report" in workplaces and schools.

The Helms-Burton Act will be a main focus of discussion, he said, and he predicted that the strengthening of the United States sanctions against Cuba would be especially useful in motivating young people, whose ideological commitment to the Cuban revolution has flagged considerably in recent years.

"We are profiting from Helms," Mr. Alarcón said gleefully. "He has served us on a silver plate something that is crucial from an ideological point of view.

"Of course, we are going to play that card to death."

Other Cuban officials said the call for ideological orthodoxy reflected a "renewed confidence" resulting from a successful sugar harvest and predictions that the Cuban economy would grow by 5 percent this year after contracting by one-third since 1989.

But Vladimiro Roca, a leader of the coalition of dissident and human-rights groups called the Concilio Cubano, contended that the tough line showed a "fear and panic among the leadership of losing power."

The party views the emergence of a vigorous sector of self-employed workers as a threat to its absolute control over the populace, Mr. Roca maintained. The emerging private sector is less dependent on the state and underlines the inefficiencies of a centralized economy, he said, and so "the government feels it has to brake this."

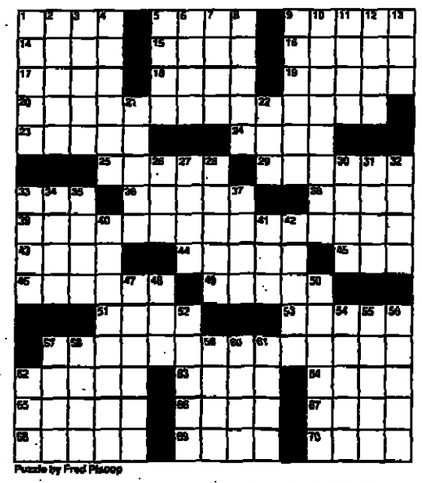
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 —— d'oeuvres
5 "Without delay"
9 Gardener's tool
14 Came to ground
15 Boxer's garb
16 Sneik's bevy
17 "—— Zapata!"
18 Hint
19 Man and Wight, e.g.
20 Unsolicited, as manuscripts
22 Prefix with meter
24 "Watch your ——!"
25 Informal language
29 Loves to death
33 Who's Who entry
36 Fencing blades
38 Enthusiastic review
39 Ill
43 Map rds.
44 Newton of gravity fame
45 Spanish Mrs.
46 Cosa ——
48 Come in
51 Gossipy Barrett
53 Goes hither and thither
57 Stroll path, perhaps
62 Aristophanes comedy, with "The"
63 Savings' partner
64 1953 Leslie Caron film
65 Corner map
66 "Leave —— Beaver"
67 Vigor
68 Petty officers
69 Hive denizens
70 "Peanuts" expletive

DOWN

1 Utter devastation
2 Popeye's gal
3 Torn apart
4 Begins
5 Curved gateway
6 —— proprietorship
7 Border on
8 Jury members
9 Spruced up, as shoes
10 Globe-trotter's need
11 Singer Guthrie
12 Consider
13 Printer's widths
21 Mosaic maker
22 —— loss for words
26 Fitting
27 Royal Crown Cola brand
28 Silly birds
30 Stadium cheers
31 "Did you ——!"
32 Blood fluids
33 Beachgoer's worry
34 Look —— (probe)
35 Pindaric verses
37 Ugly duckling, ultimately
40 Female hormone
41 Chow down
42 Bitter
47 Drags out of bed
48 —— Arbor, Mich.
50 Word with high or holy
52 Ignore the script
54 "There!"
55 Acclaim
58 Injures slightly
61 Florence's river
58 Seamstress Betsy
59 Shopper's bag
60 Detest
61 Baseball's Slaughter
62 Stretch the truth



Puzzle by Fred Piscop

© *New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz*

Solution to Puzzle of March 29

L	A	P	S	E		B	A	H	S		B	R	O	W
A	G	I	L	E		I	G	E	T		L	O	B	O
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Anne McDonnell Johnson Dies at 76

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Anne McDonnell Ford Johnson, 76, who served on the White House Fine Arts Committee in the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations, helped restore Blair House in Washington and played an active role in social and charitable events in New York, died here Friday of complications from a stroke.

Mrs. Johnson was divorced in 1964 from Henry Ford 2d, then the chairman of the Ford Motor Co. She married Deane F. Johnson, a prominent Los Angeles lawyer, in 1968, and the couple moved to New York in 1980.

One of 14 children in the socially prominent New York family of James F. McDonnell, Mrs. Johnson grew up in Manhattan and on the 55-acre family estate in Southampton. Her grandfather, Thomas E. Murray, was a utilities executive and inventor. She met Mr. Ford while returning from a European trip in 1936, and they were married in 1940 in what was a major event of the social season.

After her marriage to Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson created an instant status revolution in Los Angeles, where she immediately became the most prestigious hostess. The couple bought a Regency-style house that Mrs. Johnson, who was known as a connoisseur of French furniture, filled with the pieces she had collected. She eventually became the Los Angeles representative of Christie's, the auction house. Later in New York, she was associated for a time with Sotheby's.

Enrique Jorda, 84, Orchestra Conductor

New York Times Service

Enrique Jorda, 84, a Spanish-born American conductor who was music director of the San Francisco Symphony from 1954 to 1963, died March 22 in Brussels.

Mr. Jorda made his professional conducting debut in Paris in 1937, and, upon his return to Spain in 1940 he was appointed music director of the Madrid Symphony Orchestra. In San Francisco, Mr. Jorda succeeded Pierre Monteux, and during his nine-year tenure he brought many new works to the orchestra's repertory. After he left San Francisco, he was a guest conductor in Europe, South America and Australia.

Edmund A. Rossi Jr., 72, a San Francisco native who carried out his family's century-old tradition of making inexpensive wines for the Italian Swiss Colony winery, died March 25 in Oakland, California, after a stroke. Mr. Rossi's family owned the winery at Asti, California, until 1945, after which he continued as the chief winemaker for the winery at Asti from 1945 until 1975.

Mohammed Sidqi Suleiman, 77, a former Egyptian prime minister who played an instrumental role in the construction of the Aswan High Dam, died Thursday in Cairo. The cause of death was not reported. He was prime minister under President Gamal Abdel Nasser from September 1966 to June 1967, but he was demoted in a cabinet reshuffle after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Albert L. Kraus, 75, editor emeritus of The Journal of Commerce and a former editor and financial reporter at The New York Times, died Friday at his home in Westfield, New Jersey. He suffered from Parkinson's disease. Mr. Kraus joined The Journal of Commerce in 1978 and was named editor in 1981. He retired in 1987.

INTERNATIONAL

Amy Tan and Orphans Rouse China

By Keith Richburg
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — The occasion seemed innocuous enough. About 450 assorted guests were gathered in a hotel ballroom to pledge money to help China's orphans. The keynote speaker for the evening was the best-selling American author Amy Tan. And in the audience were the representatives of the leading American corporations in China, as well as the new U.S. ambassador, Jim Sasser.

But the dinner Saturday night was disrupted before it began when plainclothes officers of the Public Security Bureau swooped in. They confiscated all the programs, threw partitions up to divide the ballroom into smaller sections and announced that Mrs. Tan would not be permitted to speak.

They then went through the ballroom ripping signs and decorations off the walls, including the large-character posters that read: "Love Children." Even the singing children who were supposed to greet arriving guests at the escalator were sent home.

The police told some organizers that the meeting was unauthorized because they did not have a proper permit. But some here speculated that China's Communist authorities might still be smarting from a recent report this year by the U.S.-group Human Rights Watch / Asia that cited mistreatment and neglect of thousands of orphans in state-run facilities.

"We were very disappointed, because the event was aimed at raising money to help Chinese orphans," said Jim McGregor, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, who was to be master of ceremonies for the event.

The timing of the raid came at an awkward time for China, just as a debate is heating up in the United States over whether to continue granting Beijing most-favored-nation trading status. Two dozen American business executives, including Mr. McGregor and some of those at the dinner, are to arrive in Washington on April 15 to lobby the Clinton administration and Congress to continue China's trade privileges.

Also this week, a United Nations meeting in Geneva will decide whether to criticize China's rights record.

"It's probably paranoia," said a guest at the dinner. "They probably thought that this was another politically motivated event. Orphans is a term that sets off alarm. And with the UN decision coming up, it all contributed to this paranoid atmosphere."

Another guest said: "What can be threatening about Amy Tan and orphans? Maybe some security people who don't understand the world thought this would be a political event. There's a lot of sensitivity around."

The dinner on Saturday was sponsored by the Philip Hayden Charitable Foundation, a new Christian charity founded in honor of an American who died in China. The dinner was a fund-raiser, which was to include a raffle and various corporation chiefs coming forward to hand over checks.

The foundation provides money for Chinese orphans to have corrective surgery for cleft palates. It also raises money for educational programs, and to help orphans with disabilities, according to a foreign resident familiar with the group.

As the guests left after dinner, several said they saw security men in plain clothes stationed around the ballroom and at the escalators. "There were goons everywhere," one guest said.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman confirmed that Mr. Sasser was at the dinner, but had no further details.

One guest involved with setting up the program said the police informed him shortly before the guests began arriving that the banquet would not be allowed because the organizers had failed to get a police permit. But he said such requirements were usually ignored when the guests are almost all foreigners, and the event is neither political nor controversial.

"These hotels have four or five of these events a day," he said. "They have these things all the time."

He expressed concern that publicity over the incident might further hurt China's case for protecting its most-favored-trade status this year before a hostile Congress, coming amid concerns over China's sales of nuclear-related equipment and its military exercises off Taiwan.

"MFN's in trouble," he said. "Half the American Chamber of Commerce board of directors was there. It was like a Who's Who of the foreign business community in Beijing."

HONG KONG: *Getting Papers*

Continued from Page 1

that will grant local residents visa-free travel to Britain, but no residency rights.

"People are coming here for the passport as a gesture of protest against China's actions," one businessman in his 40s, who identified himself only as Ko, told Reuters.

Others waiting told reporters they put more trust in the British National Overseas passports than new documents being prepared for use by the roughly 3 million Hong Kong residents with no other choice in passports.

"At least it allows me to leave if I want to," a young China-born woman, holding a newspaper up to shield her face from news cameras, told Reuters.

Tempers frayed badly on Saturday as nervous applicants prepared to wait through the night to beat the midnight Sunday deadline. One man was hospitalized after being hit in the head with a mobile phone in a fight with three other men whom the injured man accused of jumping the queue.

There were no incidents Sunday, and only a handful of applicants were turned away after the deadline passed.

On Saturday, more than 22,000 people lined up. Overall, 200,000 applications were taken in March, compared with 11,850 in February and 7,589 in January.



Mandel Ngan/Agence France-Presse
Hong Kong residents waiting on Sunday to get British travel documents.

Accords Set To Bolster Bosnia Pact

Search Is Planned For Mass Grave Sites

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In a last-ditch effort to save one of the foundations of the Dayton peace accord, Muslim and Croatian negotiators have agreed on a series of issues that, if implemented, would significantly bolster the flagging fortunes of their federation, established two years ago as a counterweight to the powerful Serbs.

A common flag and coat of arms, a united customs department and measures to transfer powers from Muslim and Croatian bodies to federal institutions marked the key agreements announced Sunday by Michael Steiner, a senior German diplomat who brokered the deal Saturday night.

The deal was one of two pieces of good news for the fragile peace accord Sunday, building on developments announced Saturday in Serbia and Croatia.

The second was the announcement by U.S. military officers accompanying Defense Secretary William J. Perry that international war crimes investigators are due to start examining this week suspected mass grave sites around the former "safe area" of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

The atrocities committed around that town of 40,000 when it fell to a Serbian assault in July 1995 constitute perhaps the most serious human rights violations in Europe since World War II. Western officials have said a reckoning of what happened to an estimated 8,000 Muslim men missing in that bloodbath is crucial to the Dayton peace process.

The developments Sunday followed the announcement Saturday that President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, making good on a promise to the U.S. secretary of state, Warren M. Christopher, had delivered to the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague two Bosnian Serb soldiers who have acknowledged participating in one of the massacres of Muslim men from Srebrenica.

Simultaneously, Croatia's defense minister, Gojko Susak, announced that a Croatian general, also wanted by The Hague on war crimes charges, will surrender to investigators Monday.

Mr. Susak returned to the Balkans with Mr. Perry on Saturday after several weeks in the United States for a lung operation. Western diplomats said the reappearance of this strongman appears to have jolted the Bosnian Croats into agreeing to bolster the federation with Bosnia's Muslims.

Mr. Susak, a Canadian pizza magnate, has run Croatia's Defense Ministry with an iron hand since taking it over in 1991. During that time he has built one of the best armies in the Balkans and in addition is reputed to control Bosnian Croat officials throughout Herzegovina, a rocky region in the southwest corner of Bosnia where he was born.

While Western officials have said that Mr. Susak is linked closely to atrocities carried out against Muslims during a vicious Muslim-Croat war in 1993-94, his enduring influence over the Bosnian Croats has made him an irreplaceable actor on the Dayton stage.

"Susak is the man," said one official close to the negotiations between the Croats and the Muslims. "It is no coincidence that when he returned home, the Croats agreed to finally create the federation."

The Muslim-Croat federation was formed two years ago by the United States as a way to stop the Croats from fighting the Muslims and turn both factions against the Serbs. But since then it has floundered mainly because Bosnian Croats, backed by Zagreb, wanted to establish a separate Croatian state in Bosnia and ultimately merge it with Croatia. In recent months, Muslim extremists also have appeared interested in creating their own Islamic state.

Mr. Steiner said the deal announced Sunday differed from previous agreements because it contained sanctions against those who refuse to cooperate. Several mayors, for example, have been particularly recalcitrant about allowing Croats or Muslims to return home.

"We have achieved a federation implementation agreement different from previous agreements," he said. "We have agreed on more than 20 very concrete tasks, with deadlines, the first being tomorrow and the last on April 30."

The first deadline agreed Saturday could be the most critical: an agreement to form a Muslim-Croat customs department starting Monday. In so doing the Bosnian Croats effectively pledged to abolish an organization that funded their drive to create a separate, ethnically homogeneous state.

Western diplomats have estimated that the customs office of the self-declared Croatian state of Herceg-Bosna took in as much as $40,000 a day in duties. Now, under the deal announced Sunday, that money will be handed over to the federation.

"I have no illusions that we still have a long and difficult way to go. That's how politics are and that's how it is in this country," Mr. Steiner said.

He warned that municipalities that refuse to form mixed local authorities will be denied international and central government funding and towns that refuse to allow refugees to return will be denied reconstruction money.

Western officials said a team of about seven investigators from the war crimes tribunal would go to a region around Srebrenica this week and begin looking at as many as 12 suspected mass grave sites. They said exhumations would not take place until sometime in May.

JOBS: *U.S. Urges European Nations to Act on Unemployment by Creating Competitive Environment for Industry*

Continued from Page 1

France and Germany, midway through an economic slowdown, as they race to keep to their single currency timetable. The European Union plans to begin its single currency in 1999.

Europe's timetable, as set out in the Maastricht treaty on closer economic ties, was "imposing extraordinarily stringent deadlines, and perhaps unrealistically stringent deadlines, that bring with them deflationary policy that is not helpful in creating an environment of full employment," said one American official.

On Sunday, Robert Reich, the U.S. labor secretary, emphasized in a telephone interview that Europe and the United States have "a lot to learn from one another," but he made plain that "the Europeans hopefully will have something to learn from us about flexible labor and product markets."

He said that "flexible labor markets and flexible product markets go together, with the latter embracing competition."

Mr. Reich said he wished to underscore the importance of "deregulation and openness to the global economy because there is a direct relationship between jobs and the competitive pressure faced by the industry."

Mr. Reich and Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of President Bill Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, also urged European governments to ensure that there is a sufficient mix between labor market reforms and what Mr. Stiglitz termed "macroeconomic policies."

This is the diplomatic language American officials usually use to refer indirectly to their belief that European central banks should be cutting interest rates to spur economic growth.

"We are not preaching to Europe," said Dan Terulo, deputy assistant to Mr. Clinton for economic policy. "We are not saying here is how to do it."

But when asked for Washington's message to its European partners, Mr. Terulo said: "We have a story to tell other G-7 members of the kinds of efforts to pursue that will create and sustain employment."

Mr. Terulo noted that 8.4 million jobs had been created in the United States over the last three years, compared with none in Europe in the same period.

"They can draw their own conclusions based on what we have been doing," Mr. Terulo said.

Mr. Stiglitz said that strong antitrust and other competition policies were vital and that Europe could learn from America's deregulation of markets such as telecommunications "which have created a whole new industry, and new jobs, as have our aggressive opening of markets abroad."

Mr. Stiglitz's reference to telecommunications and to the importance of market-opening comes at a time when Washington is pressing the European Union to improve its market-opening measures in that sector, and before April 30, the deadline for reaching a trade accord on telecommunications in talks being held at the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

Mr. Stiglitz, while noting "there is a certain symbolic value to a conference like this on unemployment," said the key to U.S. success had been to combine policies of fiscal consolidation with deregulation.

He also said the United States had succeeded in creating jobs because of "a balanced approach to deficit reduction, with very large expenditure cuts and a slight tax increase only for the upper 1.2 percent of the population, plus a tax decrease for poor working families."

He said U.S. jobs were also created because of provisions that were "pro-investment and pro-business" and that went well beyond the frequently mentioned notion of reducing payroll taxes.

ISRAEL: *Likud's Netanyahu Bounces Back*

Continued from Page 1

tions from October 1996 to May 29, and members of Mr. Netanyahu's own party hinted that their chances might be better if he stepped aside.

All that changed with the four suicide bombings, and the profound fear they revived among many Israelis that the peace with the Palestinians was not bringing them what they most wanted — security.

This was Mr. Netanyahu's theme. In the immediate wake of the bombings, he was cautious to avoid any notion that he was seeking to capitalize on the disaster. He gave his support to the government and the steps it was taking, and he ordered his followers to show restraint.

But as soon as the campaign for the May 29 election resumed, the gloves came off. "The Labor government had a chance to bring peace, and we see what sort of peace it is," he told his party's central committee in a hall decorated with a huge banner reading, "Peace With the Likud."

"We must put our defense back in our own hands and give our security forces the freedom to hit where and when they deem right," he said. "Peace with the Arabs begins with security for the Jews."

From the political limbo of last winter, when he languished as far as 30 points behind Mr. Peres in polls, Mr. Netanyahu has revived as a real contender. Now, polls have the two neck-to-neck.

Likud spokesmen deny that it was solely the explosions that turned Mr. Netanyahu's fortunes, noting that he was ahead of Mr. Rabin in the polls before the assassination, and that he was regaining lost ground before the first of the explosions on Feb. 24. Indeed, the Israeli public is notoriously given to broad swings after major crises, and nobody expected the conservatives to stay down forever.

But there is little question that the bombings brought public attention back to the central issue of Israeli politics and turned the race into a critical referendum on how the Israelis want to proceed in shaping their coexistence with the Palestinians.

The theme is closely linked to Mr. Netanhyahu's career. The event that served more than any other to shift him from a business career to politics was the heroic death of his older brother, Yonatan Netanyhu, killed commanding the brilliant Israeli rescue of hostages in Entebbe in July 1976.

That incident led Mr. Netanyahu, then 27, to organize conferences on international terrorism, which in turn, brought him to the attention of Moshe Arens, then ambassador to the United States, who invited him to Washington as his deputy. He then became Israel's delegate to the United Nations.

By the time he returned to Israel in 1988 at the age of 39 as deputy foreign minister, he was a serious player in Likud politics and a natural spokesman for the government. His innumerable appearances as Israel's spokesman during the Gulf War, and again during the Madrid peace conference, established him as a national celebrity. In 1993, after Likud's loss in national elections, Mr. Netanyahu, 43, was elected the party's leader.

Now, at 46, he stands as the youngest politician ever to seek the Israeli prime ministry, and as the first to reject the traditional paternalism and clubbiness of Israeli politics in favor of direct, personal and professionally packaged appeals to voters.

His opponent, Mr. Peres, is 72, and was active in politics before Mr. Netanyahu, or Israel, were born.

Whether Mr. Netanyahu's youth or style prove as successful in the election as they were in winning the Likud leadership will be known only on May 29. American-style campaigning is still relatively new to Israel, and in the intimacy of a small and disputatious nation, soundbites quickly wear thin.

BOSNIA: *NATO's Success Stands on Still-Shaky Ground*

Continued from Page 1

peacekeeping operation shows that NATO can have a cooperative relationship with Russia."

But there are enough political uncertainties in both Russia and Bosnia to leave many dark shadows looming over NATO's future.

Whether the alliance even had a future was unclear at the end of the Cold War. In Brussels and other Western European capitals, the view now is that only NATO can provide an effective deterrent to future outbreaks of violent European nationalism like the one in Bosnia.

Militarily, that is true, and militarily, NATO can keep war from breaking out again in Bosnia even if the civilian authorities do not start the reconstruction and reconciliation needed to ensure that peace lasts.

But the United States is insisting that the peacekeepers leave by the end of December, a possible point of contention with its European allies who fear a resumption of war if NATO pulls out too soon.

"If you can't cajole or coerce these guys to get along together, it's difficult for the international community to crack a stick over them," said Lieutenant General Michael J.D. Walker of Britain, the NATO deputy commander here.

General Walker, like the French commander in Sarajevo, Major General Robert Rideaux, believes that NATO might have to stay longer, even if not at full strength, to ensure eventual success.

Admiral Leighton W. Smith Jr., the NATO commander, and other American officers here hold to the official Washington position, in an election year, that after December, peace is not an American problem but a Bosnian one.

Politics also threatens relations between NATO and Russia no matter how well their soldiers get along together on the ground in Bosnia.

In the hills north of Tuzla, American and other allied military commanders say they are establishing close working relationships with Russian soldiers serving with the NATO force and so reducing Russian distrust of NATO expansion into Central Europe.

In other corners of Bosnia, Czech, Hungarian and Polish officers from formerly Communist countries are working with Canadian, American and West European units in the hope of making it easier for their countries to become NATO members.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander V. Solovyev, the Russian brigade's chief of staff, said, "Speaking from the purely military point of view, I think we can only gain from cooperation with NATO."

But NATO's future relationship with Russia is ultimately a political question. Whatever the 1,500 Russian soldiers and officers in Bosnia think about NATO will matter less than what President Boris N. Yeltsin and Gennadi A. Zyuganov, his Communist opponent in the Russian elections this June, think. And both of them are vehemently against the alliance's taking in new members from Central and Eastern Europe.

If Bosnia does relapse into war, NATO's credibility as a deterrent to the kind of fanatical nationalism that spawned the war in Bosnia would inevitably be questioned all over Europe.

"All of the local people I talk to say that the war will start again if we leave," said Lieutenant Colonel Josef Sedlak, commander of the Sixth Czech Mechanized Battalion, in the Canadian operational sector in the largely Bosnian Serb town of Donja Ljubija. "We need to keep a big force here, not just a small one. Otherwise, the soldiers will be as vulnerable as the United Nations soldiers were."

The Czechs are encountering practical problems that make it clear that achieving NATO membership for former Warsaw Pact countries will take time, effort and a lot of money.

"We have problems with NATO in communications, because we don't speak enough English," Colonel Sedlak said through his interpreter.

"NATO uses different procedures than we are used to, and they have different equipment — they use computers, and we still use rulers and crank telephones."

BASEBALL: *Whatever You Do, Don't Mention the Strike*

Continued from Page 1

its core popularity, then bounced back to its previous glowing health.

When you lose that much of your market share to competitors — in this case, the entire sports-and-entertainment industry — how on earth do you get it back? Not just in one year. Once the salt has lost its flavor, how can the flavor be restored?

Baseball has come to realize that its greatest strength lies in the kindness of others. The game still has the goodwill of the United States, even if it has fewer fans than it did two years ago. Nobody wants to see baseball wither, even those who don't much care for it. It's still un-American to wish baseball ill, even if the game deserves it.

Everybody has fan polls and ticket sales statistics to cite. Interest in the game, as well as ticket sales, have rebounded. But they're far from prestrike levels. According to Major League Baseball, season ticket sales are up 7 percent in the American League and 5 percent in the National League over '95. But the AL is off 2 percent from '94 while the NL is still down a painful 10 percent.

This is a sport that saw inexorable attendance growth from 1975 through 1994, constantly setting new highs that drove franchise values to the sky. Without the strike, how much higher would the sport have flown?

So, by all means, let's "Play Ball." There's lots to love. You need heroes. You need villains. You got 'em. Greg Maddux may be the best pitcher — though probably not the greatest thrower — that baseball has seen. As for Albert Belle, how many players can throw a ball at a fan, cork their bat, scream obscenities at a reporter, run over trick-or-treaters in a truck, then claim to be the victim?

Meanwhile, Cal Ripken still stood by the box seat railing after almost every Grapefruit League game, signing autographs for the same people who had come the day before and have since sold the ball for $50. Next time you hear players called greedy and fans noble, watch the Cal Show. Even the Orioles joke that The Streak will be snapped by writer's cramp.

In the last year, baseball has pulled out all the stops. We have wild cards. We have more expansion, and interleague play, on the way. We have diluted pitching staffs and tons of cheap home runs. A new Camden Yards knockoff is commissioned every six months. The strike zone is bigger to promote faster play.

Fox television has even discovered that baseball is full of twentysomething stars who wear their hats backward, surf the 'Net, adore incredibly ugly $150 athletic shoes and have a sense of humor. Somebody under 60 might even learn to identify with them.

Maybe the game has had its best days. Maybe not. But, in the spirit of healing, and in appreciation for all those Wonderful Terrific years, let's pretend that time still begins on Opening Day.

In this Tuesday's
Style
The New York Collections

Herald International Tribune
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

CYBERSCAPE

What EU Funds Want, The Internet Delivers

By David Callaway
Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — Faced with incongruous financial regulations across the European Union, global fund managers have enlisted a new ally in their quest to increase their business on the Continent — the Internet.

Companies such as Robert Fleming Investment Management and Fidelity International have turned to the World Wide Web, the easy-to-use graphics-oriented part of the Internet, to attract investors from Germany, France and elsewhere.

"The Internet does not recognize geographical, cultural or linguistic boundaries," said Hans Heller of Robert Fleming in Luxembourg. "The number of inquiries we've generated so far is already on par with the number of inquiries we're generated by using a cold list."

Web sites help fund companies cut red tape when selling across European borders.

Fleming said it receives 13,000 "hits," or inquiries, each week on its Internet site (http://www.flemings.lu). That is up from 8,000 hits a month when the site opened in September, Mr. Heller said.

Under European Union financial services regulations, funds domiciled in one EU country can be sold cross-border as long as the fund manager follows the marketing regulations of the country it is selling in.

By offering a separate page for each country, fund companies can meet marketing rules at relatively low cost.

Many of the large U.S. fund companies have Web sites, and next month the Securities and Exchange Commission will vote on whether to allow fund prospectuses to be sent over the Internet.

Fidelity International, the international arm of the U.S. mutual fund giant, already has more than 100 pages of product information on its Web site (http//www.fid-intl.com/uk).

Fidelity Investments, the U.S. parent company, went live on the Web last year and says it has had more than 3 million hits in the past six months.

In Britain, Fidelity's Web site has generated more than 500 requests for information since the beginning of the year, leading to more than £150,000 ($229,000) of investment, according to Ron Raikula, manager of the marketing systems group.

Two weeks ago, TrustNet Ltd., a British company, introduced a Web site that offers listing details on more than 500 investment trusts, or mutual funds, in Britain.

Internet address: CyberScape@iht.lib.demon.co.uk.

For Sale: 60,000 U.K. Homes

One Buyer Only Sought for Military Housing

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

LONDON — The latest entry in the garage sale that has marked the British government's exit from the business world over the past 15 years is a collection of some 60,000 rather ordinary houses and apartments scattered on and around military bases throughout England and Wales.

With the Cold War over, Britain has found itself with an oversupply of housing for married military personnel, and rather than try its hand at being a landlord for civilians, the government wants to pass the job on to the private sector.

The sale, involving what is being called the biggest chunk of residential housing to go on the block in British history, is expected to raise as much as £2 billion ($3.05 billion). It also will rid the Ministry of Defense of the headache of maintaining properties it has no need for and, by its own admission, has managed inefficiently.

The sale has attracted some of the world's best-known realty investors, like Goldman, Sachs & Co.'s Whitehall Street Real Estate Fund, Tishman Speyer Properties Inc. and Nomura Securities.

But because the deal is so large and so unusual — all the property will be sold together — some see value where others see nothing but pitfalls.

"There's a huge amount of nitty-gritty one would have to deal with as the owner," said Owen Inskip, chief executive of Johnson Fry Housing Ltd., the largest residential housing management company in Britain.

"But that's where the opportunity — and the rewards — come in, isn't it?"

Intrepid investors have reaped rewards aplenty since the early 1980s, when Margaret Thatcher, then the prime minister, championed an ambitious privatization program that forced flabby government-owned enterprises to stand on their own feet and compete in the marketplace.

Many of them did, becoming formidable companies producing quality goods and services for customers, handsome profits for private investors and almost £100 billion for the government. British Airways is now one of the most efficient companies in the airline business, and Rolls-Royce PLC is turning tidy profits.

Some see a similar bright future in transforming the military's heavily subsidized family housing into private, civilian residences.

At the outset, most of the homes will be leased back to the military, which will pay the buyer roughly £100 million a year in rent and be responsible for all maintenance and repairs.

Only about 3,000 units — 5 percent of the total — will be released to the new owner initially, but each year the government has

See HOUSING, Page 17

Water Monopolies Face Extinction

Bloomberg Business News

HARROGATE, England — The British government plans to end water monopolies in its latest bout of free trade legislation.

"We have decided to introduce competition in the water industry," Prime Minister John Major told a Conservative Party conference Saturday as he previewed a package to be unveiled Monday. "It worked wonders for gas and electricity, and it should do the same for water."

There was no immediate comment from British water utilities.

Current rules let competitors serve individual large customers across regional boundaries in limited circumstances. The government would expand such competition and allow utilities unfettered use of pipelines in other regions to serve, initially, large users.

The water industry, which was privatized in 1989, has seen a flurry of merger and takeover activity in the past year. Only last week, Severn Trent PLC said it wished to acquire South West Water PLC — which could spark a bidding war with Wessex Water PLC.

Both utilities are waiting for government approval of a sale of South West. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected to allow them to bid on the condition that water prices be reduced.

Shaw Brothers Dropping Its Bid for TVE

Bloomberg Business News

HONG KONG — Shaw Brothers Ltd. is withdrawing its bid for TVE Ltd. in the face of a higher offer from South China Morning Post Ltd.

If shareholders approve South China's second, higher bid for TVE, Shaw said, it will not make the formal offer for TVE it had announced.

Instead, Shaw will sell its 30.3 percent stake in TVE to South China Morning, the company said in an announcement published Saturday.

It said two of its directors, Louis Page and Mona Fong, who together own 4.68 percent of TVE, had decided to accept South China's offer.

South China, publisher of Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper, offered TVE shareholders one share for every two TVE shares in a February bid. That valued TVE at 1.05 billion Hong Kong dollars ($135.8 million).

The chairman of South China, Robert Kuok, holds about one-third of both companies through his controlling stake in Kerry Holdings Ltd. South China said it wanted to work with TVE, whose subsidiaries produce television commercials and movies, run convenience stores and are involved in magazines, to sell publications in the Chinese market.

Shaw, whose bid last month valued TVE at 1.07 billion dollars, said its links with the company would suffer if South China won control.

Analysts deemed the bid as a negotiating tactic, since it was only slightly above South China's.

If that was the case, Shaw succeeded, because South China's new bid values TVE at 1.20 billion dollars and includes a cash alternative to the share swap.

TVE advised shareholders not to exchange their stock until Shaw and South China gave it documents detailing their offers. Shaw never filed the formal terms of its offer.

Along with its victory in the TVE bidding, South China received good news in its principal business when Oriental Press Group Ltd. said Saturday that it would raise the price of its Eastern Express newspaper back to 5 dollars as of Monday.

Oriental Press cut the price of the English-language paper to 3 dollars in late September.

The South China Morning Post raised its newsstand price to 7 dollars from 2 dollars in October.

Oriental Press also discounted its Chinese-language newspaper, Oriental Daily News, to 2 dollars from 5 dollars in December.

Rising newsprint costs and slumping advertising revenue, along with the price cuts, caused Oriental Press's net profit in the six months ended September to fall 36 percent from the year-ago period.

■ Developers Win Station Bid

A consortium of local Hong Kong property developers and the Bank of China has won the contract to build an airport railway station in the Central district on Hong Kong island, Agence France-Presse reported.

The 40 billion-dollar bid by Sun Hung Kai Properties, Henderson Land Development, Hong Kong & China Gas Co. and the Bank of China includes development of three office towers, featuring retail space and two hotels, atop the underground station for the railway to Chek Lap Kok, the Hong Kong airport to open in 1998.

Israel Charges 3 For Tax Evasion at Former Teva Unit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PETAH TIKVAH, Israel — Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd.'s chief executive, Eli Hurvitz, was indicted Sunday by the Jerusalem district attorney's office on charges of tax evasion at a former subsidiary, the Justice Ministry said.

The charges relate to alleged tax evasion at Promedico, a drug company that was a subsidiary of Teva from 1980 to 1986. Mr. Hurvitz was questioned about the matter in early March.

Two Promedico executives, Binyamin Jesselson and Alexander Eisenberg, also were indicted. The three are charged with setting up a shell company and foreign bank accounts in order to avoid paying taxes.

"Teva's board of directors is convinced that Mr. Hurvitz will be fully and completely exonerated and is confident of his ability to continue managing Teva," the company said.

Teva, Israel's largest drug manufacturer, was part of the late Robert Maxwell's investment empire. The British executive bought 18 percent of Teva in 1989 and sold it in 1991.

On Jan. 10, Teva issued a formal statement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rejecting a report that Mr. Hurvitz would be tried for tax evasion and saying that "no claim or demands or any investigation" was made against Teva in connection to Promedico.

Mr. Hurvitz served as a "non-active" member of Promedico's board, said Uzi Kamiel, Teva's legal adviser, in a Jan. 10 interview. He said Teva had dozens of subsidiaries and that Mr. Hurvitz did not manage them.

Promedico is the target of a tax investigation begun in 1993 and "has no connection to Teva and no connection to Eli Hurvitz," Mr. Kamiel said.

The charges against the three executives stem from allegations that Promedico failed to report income to the Israeli authorities on commissions it received from various drug makers. Promedico is a leading importer of drugs in Israel.

Last month Teva said its fourth-quarter 1995 profit rose 25 percent before a one-time write-off, in line with expectations. Net income was $19.8 million after the write-off.

Teva filed last June for U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its multiple sclerosis treatment. Copaxone, its first original drug. The FDA has postponed until June a review that had been scheduled for March. The U.S. market for an MS treatment is estimated at $1 billion to $2 billion a year.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

■ Israeli Stocks Drop

Israeli stocks opened the week with losses as investors were drawn by high interest rates toward savings accounts and bonds and away from shares, Bloomberg Business News reported from Tel Aviv.

Preliminary figures indicated the Maof index of 25 top issues fell 1.01 percent, to 203.02 points, and the Mishtanim index of 100 leading shares fell 0.81 percent, to 193.67.

"There's a real lack of interest in the market," said Shachar Gazit, a trader at Bancha Securities & Investments Ltd. in Tel Aviv. "Interest rates are still high. You can get excellent returns on bonds."

The Bank of Israel last changed rates on Feb. 1, when it raised the rate at which it lends to banks 0.3 percentage points, to 14 percent.

Analysts had been expecting share prices to rise Sunday after Maof index options expired Thursday, the last day of the trading week in Tel Aviv.

Maof index options allow investors to bet on the closing level of the index.

ARIG to Buy 49% Stake in Egypt Firm

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANAMA, Bahrain — Arab Insurance Group, a Bahrain-based international reinsurer, said Sunday it would acquire 49 percent of Allied Investors Insurance Co. of Egypt for an undisclosed amount.

"This is in line with our strategy of investing in insurance companies throughout the Arab world," the company, known as ARIG, said.

"ARIG is committed to increasing the size of the Arab insurance industry by investing in the development of new insurance products and services currently not marketed in the region," ARIG's general manager, Bader Wahidi, said.

ARIG is owned by the governments of Libya, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Allied Investors, set up in 1994, has an issued and subscribed capital of 60 million Egyptian pounds ($17.80 million).

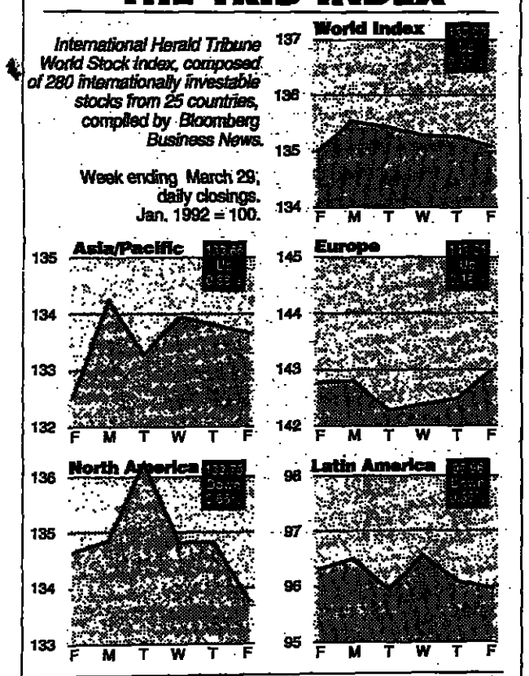
Separately, the consortium developing Egypt's first privately owned oil refinery is negotiating with Repsol SA of Spain to operate the plant, one of the refinery's backers said Sunday.

Sameh Fahmy, vice president for projects of Egyptian General Petroleum Corp., said he expected an agreement to be signed within two months for Repsol to run the planned 100,000 barrel-a-day joint-venture refinery in Alexandria. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

THE TRIB INDEX

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News.

Week ending March 29; daily closings. Jan. 1992 = 100.



Industrial Sectors/Weekend close

	3/22/96 close	3/22/96 close	% change		3/29/96 close	3/22/96 close	% change
Energy	139.52	138.43	+0.79	Capital Goods	142.18	142.68	–0.35
Utilities	127.86	127.37	+0.38	Raw Materials	160.67	159.91	+0.60
Finance	124.29	123.82	+0.38	Consumer Goods	141.93	142.38	–0.32
Services	122.52	122.94	–0.34	Miscellaneous	141.07	140.08	+0.71

The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in: Tokyo, New York, London, and Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. *For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the 20 top issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the ten top stocks are tracked.*

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CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates April -2

	$	£	DM	FF	Lira	DFl	BF	SF	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.632	2.522	1.1192	0.3265	0.1057*	—	5.446*	1.3892	1.5487*	1.2122	1.3315*
Brussels	30.285	46.7405	20.7575	6.0575	1.9597*	18.56	—	25.77	0.2869	22.15	24.69*
Frankfurt	1.4757	2.2515	—	0.2934	0.9496*	0.0895	4.866*	1.2389	1.3802*	1.0972	1.1895*
London (s)	1.5565	—	1.9539	7.684	2.397.80	2.2724	44.228	1.8178	162.34	2.0886	180.84
Madrid	124.135	189.353	84.178	24.67	7.912*	75.159	4.0922	104.298	116.971*	91.067	
Milan	1,581.87	2,393.30	1,063.27	311.81	—	949.57	51.735	1,318.27	1423.4	1,151.04	12.646
New York (b)	—	1.5778	1.4763	5.0332	1,565.00	1.4525	30.34	1.19	107.255	1.3938	134.305
Paris	5.0315	7.6755	3.4098	—	0.3257*	3.0466	0.1659	4.2228	4.7253*	3.6815	4.0655*
Tokyo	106.25	162.49	72.19	21.17	6.68	64.42	2.5859	80.41	—	77.92	0.8563
Toronto	1.3587	2.0743	0.9192	0.2896	0.0852*	0.8232	0.0427*	1.1408	1.2669*	—	1.3692*
Zurich	1.1981	1.8154	0.806	0.2366	0.0759*	0.7205	0.0375*	—	1.1157*	0.8772	0.9597*
1 ECU	1.2805	0.8414	1.839	6.4579	2.013.64	2.1197	38.922	1.5575	136.667	1.2494	139.231
1 SDR	1.4612	0.9579	2.1563	N.Q.	2,292.45	2.4122	44.3112	1.7731	155.597	1.9025	161.278

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich. Rates in other centers: Toronto rates of 3 p.m.
*(s): To buy one pound; (b): To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	1.00	Greek droc.	240.12	Mex. peso	7.5425	S. Afr. rand	3.9933
Australian $	1.2804	Hong Kong $	7.7321	N. Zealand $	1.4743	S. Kor. won	782.45
Austrian sch.	10.345	Hung. forint	147.11	Norw. krone	6.3975	Swed. krona	6.6761
Brazil real	0.985	Indian rupee	34.015	Pak. peso	26.20	Taiwan $	27.25
Chinese yuan	8.3533	Indo. rupiah	2337.68	Polish zloty	2.59	Thai baht	25.25
Czech koruna	27.35	Irish £	0.6356	Port. escudo	152.53	Turkish lira	70700.
Danish krone	5.6873	Israeli shek.	3.1335	Russ ruble	4844.	UAE dirham	3.671
Egypt. pound	3.396	Kuw dinar	0.299	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. bolfv.	468.00
Fin. markka	4.6159	Malay. ring.	2.5378	Sing.$	1.4099		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.5258	1.5260	1.5244	Japanese yen	105.82	105.36	104.90
Canadian dollar	1.3635	1.3640	1.3642	Swiss franc	1.1832	1.1793	1.1695
Deutsche mark	1.4704	1.4677	1.4652				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Agence Presse-Presse (Paris); Bank of Tokyo (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters and AP.

Zildjian: Cymbal of Progress

375-Year-Old Family Firm Appoints First Woman Leader

By David M. Herszenhorn
New York Times Service

NORWELL, Massachusetts — It is no secret when the secret formula is in use in the melt room of the Avedis Zildjian cymbal factory. People scurry. A red light flashes. A blue overhead gate comes down to keep out the inquisitive.

SMALL BUSINESS

"The 375-year-old secret is performed in that room," said Paul R. Struble, Zildjian's vice president of manufacturing, who is leading a tour of the factory and swears he does not know the secret himself. "The process they do in that room puts the music into the cymbal."

More specifically, the process they use in the melt room turns ingots of copper and tin into a bronze alloy, which, when baked and spun, turns into the instruments that help keep Zildjian the largest cymbal maker in the world, with an estimated $25 million of annual revenues.

The company's cymbals, which have been made since 1623, are prized by percussionists from rock-and-roll bands to symphony orchestras.

Ever since an alchemist named Avedis developed the melting method in Constantinople and was given the name Zildjian, which means son of cymbal maker, the responsibility for safeguarding the family secret has passed, generation after generation, from Zildjian father to Zildjian son.

That responsibility is about to be passed on again. But for the first time, it will be handed to a Zildjian daughter. Armand Zildjian, 75, chairman of the board of the privately held company, has designated his daughter, Craigie Zildjian, 48, as his successor.

This is a dramatic bow to gender equality, which experts say family businesses are not known for promoting. They are "one of the last bastions" of the "cultural concern about whether women could do this or that," said Leon A. Danco, president of the Center for Family Business in Cleveland. "And that's because there's only one vote — the old man's."

But the designation of Ms. Zildjian is also a crucial step in the company's strategy to survive. The generational transition can be a dangerous time for family businesses.

Experts say fewer than a third of family businesses last into the second generation and fewer than 10 percent survive into the third generation. The average life of a family business is only 24 years.

For Zildjian, its longevity creates added pressure. "There is a particular burden that this family faces," said Paul I. Karofsky, director of Northeastern University's Center for Family Business in Dedham, Massachusetts. "After 13 or 14 generations in a nearly 375-year-old company, no one wants to be the last. This family recognizes how much is at stake."

The family knows from experience how perilous handing off the mantle can be. In 1979, after the death of Avedis Zildjian III, the company was nearly torn apart by a rift between Armand Zildjian and his younger brother, Robert, who left the company, taking some family secrets with him, and founded Sabian, a Canadian company that is now the world's second-largest cymbal manufacturer.

Since the breakup, Armand Zildjian and his children have recruited outside managers from Fortune 500 companies in an attempt to instill broader, more modern business methods. In the 1980s, the company appointed its first chief executive and board member from outside the family.

Armand Zildjian is confident that his choice of Craigie, one of his four children, will also be the right move for the family and the business.

"She's been in the business longer than anyone," he said. "She has the most serious intent of anyone. She shows very good logic and she has very good business sense. You always pick the best."



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Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending March 29. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Australian Dollar

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
137 Ontario	5	11/09/98	90.0949	5.5500
180 Sweden	5	11/30/98	92.8430	5.3900
214 Sweden	zero	10/05/99	74.7131	8.6000

Belgian Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
202 Belgium 15	6¾	05/25/97	103.6000	6.5200
234 Belgium	7	04/29/99	106.0800	6.6000

Canadian Dollar

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
239 Canada	8¾	12/01/05	107.4000	8.1500

Danish Krone

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
4 Denmark	8	03/15/06	103.4000	7.7400
18 Denmark	7	12/15/04	98.1900	7.1300
22 Denmark	9	11/15/00	110.6500	8.1300
27 Denmark	9	11/15/98	108.9200	8.2600
46 Denmark	8	11/15/01	106.4500	7.5200
52 Denmark	8	05/15/03	105.4600	7.5900
65 Denmark	6	12/10/99	101.1000	5.9300
75 Denmark	7	08/15/97	103.2700	6.7800
78 Denmark	7	02/15/98	103.9200	6.7400
92 Denmark	7	11/10/24	85.7800	8.1600
134 Denmark	9	11/15/96	102.8300	8.7500
160 Denmark T-bills	zero	07/01/96	98.9433	4.1200
197 Denmark	6¼	02/10/97	101.8500	6.1400

Deutsche Mark

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
1 Germany	6	01/05/06	97.0520	6.1800
2 Germany	6⅞	05/12/05	103.0440	6.6700
3 Germany	5¾	08/22/00	102.3333	5.6200
5 Germany	7⅜	01/03/05	106.3500	6.9300
6 Germany	5⅜	11/21/00	99.7750	5.1400
7 Germany	6½	10/14/05	100.2625	6.4800
8 Germany	5⅞	05/15/00	102.8860	5.7100
9 Germany	6	02/16/06	96.8800	6.1900
10 Germany	8	03/20/97	104.3850	7.6600
12 Treuhand	7½	09/09/04	107.1225	7.0000
13 Germany	8	07/22/02	110.9350	7.2100
15 Germany	6½	03/15/00	105.2650	6.1700
17 Germany	8	01/21/02	110.8640	7.2200
19 Germany	8¾	08/20/01	114¾	7.6300
20 Germany	7	01/13/00	107.0860	6.5400
21 Germany	7¼	10/20/97	105.1967	6.8900
23 Germany	8½	02/20/01	112.7400	7.5400
24 Germany	6⅝	01/20/98	104.7100	6.3300
25 Treuhand	6⅝	07/09/03	102.5200	6.4600
26 Treuhand	7⅜	12/02/02	107.4560	6.8600
28 Treuhand	6⅞	06/11/03	104.1033	6.6000
29 Germany	6⅜	05/20/98	104.6225	6.0900
30 Treuhand	6⅛	06/25/98	104.1950	5.8800
31 Germany	6¼	01/04/24	88.8383	7.0400
32 Germany	6	02/20/98	103.7275	5.7800
33 Treuhand	6¾	05/13/04	102.5233	6.5800
34 Germany	6½	07/15/03	101.8300	6.3800
35 Treuhand	6½	04/23/03	102.1160	6.3700
36 Treuhand	7	11/25/99	107.0150	6.5400
37 Germany	8¼	09/20/01	112.1200	7.3600
38 Treuhand	5	01/14/99	101.7350	4.9100
39 Germany	9	10/20/00	114.5240	7.8600
40 Treuhand	7¾	10/01/02	109.4467	7.0800
41 Germany	6¾	09/15/99	106.1700	6.3600
42 Germany	6⅞	02/24/99	106.3067	6.4700
43 Germany	6¾	04/22/03	103.7286	6.5100
45 Germany	8¼	07/21/97	105.8540	7.7900
48 Treuhand	7⅛	01/29/03	106.0150	6.7200
50 Germany	8⅜	05/21/01	112.6700	7.4300
51 Germany	8⅝	12/20/00	114.2950	7.7600
54 Germany	5⅜	02/22/99	102.7980	5.2300
55 Germany	7¾	02/21/00	109.4500	7.0800
59 Germany	7½	11/11/04	107.1814	7.0000
61 Treuhand	6¼	03/04/04	99.7913	6.2600
62 Germany	7	12/22/97	105.2140	6.6500
64 Treuhand	6¼	07/29/99	104.4525	5.9800
66 Treuhand	6⅝	07/01/99	104.8700	6.0800
67 Germany	8	09/22/97	106.1025	7.5400
68 Germany	9	01/22/01	114.8000	7.8400
71 Germany	8¼	07/20/00	113¼	7.7300
72 Germany	5¾	08/20/98	103.6375	5.5500
73 Germany	5¾	08/20/97	102.8100	5.5900
74 Germany	7⅛	12/20/02	106.2350	6.7100
76 Germany	3.105	09/30/04	99.0360	3.1352
77 Treuhand	6⅛	03/26/98	104.0800	5.8800
79 Treuhand	5	12/17/98	101.7533	4.9100
80 Treuhand	6	11/12/03	98.6600	6.0800
82 Germany	6	09/15/03	99.1017	6.0500
84 Treuhand	5⅝	09/24/98	103.3533	5.4400
85 Germany	8⅝	01/20/97	103.9271	8.0600
86 Germany	6⅛	05/20/99	104.3825	5.8700
87 Germany	6⅞	12/02/98	106.3333	6.4700
88 Germany	6⅛	05/20/97	103.2250	6.1800
91 Germany	6⅞	08/14/98	104.9320	6.0800
98 Germany	7½	10/20/97	105.5400	7.1100
99 Germany	6	06/20/16	88.5833	6.7700
100 Germany	5¼	11/20/97	102.3425	5.1300
103 Germany	8¾	05/22/00	113.1667	7.7300
104 Germany	8½	08/21/00	112.4333	7.5600
105 Germany	6½	02/20/97	102.6900	6.3300
106 Germany	7¼	10/21/02	107.0600	6.7700
109 Portugal	3.325	03/26/01	99.7500	3.3300
110 Germany	6¾	07/15/04	102.6133	6.5800
115 Treuhand	5¾	04/29/99	103.1500	5.5700
117 Germany	8½	04/22/96	100.2900	8.4800
119 Germany	5¾	05/28/99	103.1000	5.5800
133 Germany	5¼	02/25/98	102.4200	5.1300
138 Germany	7	09/20/99	106.8075	6.5500
144 Germany	5¼	10/20/98	102.7700	5.1100
146 Germany	8½	09/20/96	102.3860	8.3000
155 Germany	6⅜	08/20/97	103.6167	6.1500
166 Germany	8½	08/20/96	101.9300	8.3400
168 EIB	4⅝	02/22/01	97.0000	4.7700
170 Germany	6	03/20/97	102.5117	5.8500
173 Germany	7¼	01/20/00	107.8400	6.7200
177 Germany	7⅜	11/21/96	102.3750	6.9600
179 Germany	6¼	02/20/98	104.0167	6.0100
196 World Bank	7⅛	04/12/05	103.6500	6.8700
200 Ontario	5	02/15/01	96.3000	5.1900
201 Sweden	6½	03/05/08	97.0000	6.7000
204 DSL Fin	6	02/21/06	95.1000	6.3100
206 Rabobank Neth	4½	03/25/99	101.1000	4.4500
212 Germany	6⅜	01/20/98	104.2100	6.1200
225 EBRD	4⅞	02/28/01	97.5000	5.0000
230 Treuhand	5¾	10/16/00	101.6175	5.6600
235 Germany	6¾	06/21/99	105.9863	6.3700
240 Hewlett Packard	5⅝	11/20/00	100.1520	5.6200
244 World Bank	6⅛	09/27/02	100.7500	6.0800
246 Depfa	5	02/22/01	97.7700	5.1140
247 Ldwirt Rentenbk	10.23	03/24/03	102.0000	10.0300

Dutch Guilder

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
16 Netherlands	6¼	07/15/98	104.4000	5.9900
81 Netherlands	9	01/15/01	114.6500	7.8500
93 Netherlands	7	03/15/99	106.4500	6.5800
94 Netherlands	8¼	09/15/07	112¾	7.3200
95 Netherlands	7	05/15/99	106.5000	6.5700
101 Netherlands	6¾	11/15/05	102.1000	6.6100
107 Netherlands	6½	04/15/03	102.6500	6.3300
108 Netherlands	7	06/15/05	104.0000	6.7300
114 Netherlands	5¾	01/15/04	97.2000	5.9200
121 Netherlands	9	05/15/00	113.9500	7.9000
125 Netherlands	7	02/15/03	105.6500	6.6300
127 Netherlands	6¾	02/15/99	105.6500	6.3900
132 Netherlands	7¾	03/01/05	109.1500	7.1000
136 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/00	110.8000	7.4500
141 Netherlands	6	01/15/06	96.8000	6.2000
143 Netherlands	7½	04/15/10	106.4500	7.0500
156 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/07	112.70	7.3200
157 Netherlands	6½	07/15/98	104.8300	6.2000
159 Netherlands	7½	06/15/99	107.9500	6.9500
161 Netherlands	8¼	02/15/02	112.3000	7.3500
165 Netherlands	7¼	10/01/04	106.1500	6.8300
169 Netherlands	9	07/01/00	114	7.8900
188 Neth Bank NBC	zero	05/31/96	98.8698	6.7000
198 Netherlands	7½	01/15/23	104.9900	7.1400
207 Netherlands	7¾	01/15/00	109.0700	7.1100
222 Netherlands	8¾	09/15/01	114½	7.6400
223 Netherlands	8¼	06/15/02	112.5500	7.3300
227 Netherlands	zero	06/28/96	99.2909	2.8600
248 Netherlands	8½	06/01/06	114.6000	7.4200

ECU

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
58 France BTAN	5	03/16/99	98.4300	5.0800
89 France OAT	7½	04/25/05	102.0000	7.3500
96 France BTAN	7½	03/16/97	102.5700	7.3100
97 France OAT	6	04/25/04	94.1000	6.3800
111 UK T-note	8	01/27/98	104.7500	7.6400
123 France OAT	9½	04/25/00	111.6575	8.5100
124 France BTAN	7¾	03/16/98	103.7500	6.9900
129 France OAT	8¼	04/25/22	103.0000	8.0100
140 EIB	10	01/24/01	114	8.7700
150 France OAT	6¾	04/25/02	100.4500	6.7200
154 Britain	9⅛	02/21/01	110⅛	8.2300
163 UK T-note	5¼	01/21/97	100.3750	5.2300
164 France OAT	8½	03/15/02	108.1500	7.8600
178 UK T-note	5	01/26/99	98.6250	5.0700
184 Italy	9¼	03/07/11	108.8750	8.5000
194 France B.T.A.N.	6	03/16/01	98.7500	6.0800
226 France OAT	8½	05/12/97	103.3900	8.2200

French Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
151 France OAT	8½	04/25/03	112½	7.5600
187 France OAT	9½	01/25/01	115.4200	8.2300
190 France OAT	8½	03/28/00	110.45	7.7000
192 France OAT	6¾	10/25/03	102.3000	6.6000
210 France OAT	7½	04/25/05	106.3500	7.0500
211 France OAT	7¾	10/25/05	108.0300	7.1700
213 France BTAN	7	10/12/00	105.2700	6.6500
228 France OAT	8½	11/25/02	112.45	7.5600
249 France BTAN	7	11/12/99	105.2300	6.6500

Japanese Yen

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
145 World Bank	4½	03/20/03	109.8750	4.1000
176 World Bank	4¾	12/20/04	112¾	4.2300
220 Exim Bk Japan	2⅝	07/28/05	96.7500	2.9700
237 EIB	6⅝	03/15/00	116⅞	5.6700
242 World Bank	5¼	03/20/02	114¼	4.6000
243 World Bank	4½	06/20/00	109.7500	4.1000

Portuguese Escudo

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
57 Portugal	10⅝	10/01/97	101.7000	10.3859

Spanish Peseta

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
158 Spain	10.15	01/31/06	102.9530	9.8600
171 Spain	10.10	02/28/01	103.7030	9.7400
183 Spain	7.40	07/30/99	96.1330	7.7000
195 Spain	12¼	03/25/00	110.4920	11.0900
233 Spain	11.30	01/15/02	108.6880	10.4000

Swedish Krona

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
122 Sweden	6	02/09/05	85.0585	7.0500
131 Sweden	11	01/21/99	108.9186	10.1000
149 Sweden	10¼	05/05/00	109.3693	9.3700
205 Sweden	13	06/15/01	121.5173	10.7000

Swiss Franc

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
219 EBRD	zero	06/25/96	98.9821	4.2900

U.S. Dollar

Rnk Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
11 Argentina FRN	6 5/16	03/29/05	72.0600	8.7601
14 Brazil Cap S.L	4	04/15/14	62.2750	6.4200
44 Brazil L	6 13/16	04/15/06	72.6300	9.3800
47 Argentina par L	5	03/31/23	52.0000	9.6200
49 Venezuela	6 13/16	12/18/07	59.6900	10.9900
53 Brazil par ZI	4¼	04/15/24	51.1329	8.3100
56 Brazil 930.0	6⅝	01/01/01	89.3800	7.1300
60 Venezuela par A	6¾	03/31/20	56.3800	11.9700
63 Mexico par B	6¼	12/31/19	63.6300	9.8200
69 Brazil S.ZI	6 13/16	04/15/24	63.9400	10.6500
70 Mexico par A	6¼	12/31/19	63.6300	9.8200
83 Tokyo	6⅛	03/27/06	95.0000	6.4500
90 Sweden	4½	03/24/99	96.0327	4.6900
102 Argentina L	6 5/16	03/31/23	64.1300	10.2300
112 Mexico A	6.766	12/31/19	75.1300	9.0100
113 Poland	3¾	10/27/14	76.2204	4.9200
116 Sweden	5¾	03/26/01	97.2500	5.9100
118 Poland	6⅞	10/27/24	88.0000	7.8100
120 Argentina	5.32	04/01/01	103.5000	5.1404
126 Nigeria	6¼	11/15/20	51.6300	12.1100
128 Mexico D	6.547	12/28/19	75.1300	8.7100
130 Brazil S.L	6⅞	04/15/12	61.6300	11.1600
135 Mexico	9¾	02/06/01	97.2500	10.0300
139 Canada	6⅝	07/21/05	98.0000	6.5100
142 IADB	6⅛	03/08/06	95.6250	6.4052
147 Argentina	9¼	02/23/01	92.1250	10.0400
148 Chubu Elec Pwr	5¾	04/18/01	96.6250	5.9500
152 Ecuador	3	02/28/15	41.2088	7.2800
153 Venezuela S.A	6⅝	03/18/07	59.9700	10.6300
162 Venezuela par B	6¾	03/31/20	56.3800	11.9700
167 Finland	5⅞	02/27/06	93.3750	6.2900
172 Ecuador par	3	02/28/25	35.0000	8.5700
174 Bulgaria	6¼	07/28/11	44.5951	14.0100
175 Italy B	zero	01/10/01	72.8750	6.8300
181 Bulgaria	6¼	07/28/24	49.6300	12.5900
182 World Bank	6⅜	07/21/05	98.1250	6.5000
185 Mexico C	6.609	12/31/19	75.1300	8.8000
186 Poland par	2¾	10/27/24	49.4816	5.5600
189 Walt Disney	6⅜	03/27/01	99.5000	6.4070
191 Bulgaria	2	07/28/12	29.6940	6.7400
193 Ecuador	6 5/16	02/28/25	56.5000	10.7300
199 Barclays Bank	5¾	12/31/99	86.2000	6.2400
203 Bco Com Ext.	7¼	02/02/04	81.6250	8.8800
208 Telenor As	5¾	03/26/01	95.2285	6.0400
209 Merrill Lynch &	6	03/27/00	97.8750	6.1300
215 Italy	6⅞	09/27/23	89.2500	7.7000
216 Finland	5⅝	05/06/99	99.7400	5.2000
217 Sweden	5.85	02/13/01	99.0027	5.9100
218 MBL Intl Fin	3	11/30/02	109.7500	2.7300
221 Argentina	5.672	12/28/99	59.2188	9.5775
224 Britain	5¼	09/24/96	99.9100	5.2547
229 Ontario	6⅛	06/28/00	98.7500	6.2000
231 Mexico B	6.766	12/31/19	75.1300	9.0100
232 TVA 1995a	6⅜	06/15/05	97.7500	6.5200
236 Brazil S.L	6⅞	04/15/09	66.5000	10.3400
238 Eksportfinans	8½	08/12/98	104.3472	8.1500
241 Ontario	6	02/21/06	93.5000	6.4200
245 World Bank	8⅝	10/01/99	106.7500	7.8500
250 R.O.S.A.	6.051	03/17/98	100.2000	6.0400

U.S. Market Sets Brady Bond Tone

Knight-Ridder

NEW YORK — Price direction in the Brady bond markets for months to come is at the mercy of the U.S. employment report due Friday, traders in the emerging-market securities say.

A cross-section of traders, investors and analysts forecast that the market for Bradys — securities issued as part of a plan named for former Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady that required debtor nations to cut inflation — would continue to track the prices of U.S. Treasuries.

If the jobs report shows an increase in unemployment, the Treasuries market is likely to gain on hopes that the Federal Reserve Board might cut interest rates to stimulate job growth; if unemployment falls, Treasuries will probably decline as the chances of looser credit dim.

Aside from a report on Mexican inflation, analysts said they expected the countries that issue Brady bonds to release no significant data this week, which leaves the market concentrated on the Labor Department report.

"Very little has been driven by events in the countries," said Ingrid Iverson, debt strategist for Latin America at UBS Ltd. "Unless something that you can't predict hits the market, we'll be waiting for the Friday jobs data."

"My guess is the end of next week will look very different to where we are now," she added. "At the moment nobody is trading with any great conviction."

"I think it's going to be rocky because of the Friday number," a dealer said.

Dealers said they were relieved that the Treasury had postponed its auction of two- and five-year securities until after Easter. The sale, which could siphon investment from the Brady market, had been scheduled for this week.

While there is still money flowing into the emerging market sector, Ms. Iverson said, investors are increasingly unsure where to place their bets.

"I think there might be some shift out of Argentina into Brazil," she said.

"My other pick is Ecuador," she added, saying the country's fiscal deficit would not have a lasting impact. The deficit had been forecast at 0.5 percent of gross domestic product, she said, but proved last week to be 2.3 percent. "Now that they've come out and said it," she said, "the bad news is out of the way."

Mexico is expected to release inflation data for the second half of March this week. But even if the rate continues to fall, dealers said they still did not expect the spread in yields between Mexican Bradys and U.S. Treasuries to go below the level before the peso collapsed in late 1994.

"We have to see more participation on the part of foreign investors," a dealer said. "We have to see the government restore its credibility."

Dealers also predicted continued good performance in Polish debt.

"It's the best credit in the market," said one. "Poland has been rallying as the rest of the market declined."

Dealers said the strength in Polish assets reflected a "segmentation" in the market. It also reflects the fact that Polish debt is more affected by European than U.S. demand and less affected by outflow of capital from emerging market instruments when U.S. interest rates rise.

"There has been a segmentation in the market between Latin and non-Latin," a dealer said. "It's a segmentation in terms of how prices move. But in a nutshell, there's still a very strong correlation to U.S. Treasuries."

Jobs Data Could Revive Bond Prices

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The Treasury-bond market wrapped up its worst quarter in two years Friday, but some relief should arrive this week.

Treasury prices stumbled in the past three months partially because of concern the U.S. economy was expanding at a quick pace, generating new jobs. In the logic of the bond market, that is bad news because rising employment raises the risk of inflation, which erodes the value of bonds' fixed-income payments.

But investors may get an important sign the economy is growing at a moderate pace on Friday, when the Labor Department will probably report that only about 60,000 jobs were created in March. That would be a big relief after February's surge of 705,000 jobs.

"We don't think the labor market has anywhere near the kind of growth people think it has," said Donald Ross, director of fixed income at National City Corp. in Cleveland. He predicted the yield on the benchmark 30-year bond would fall to 6.25 percent by the end of the year.

The yield on the long bond closed Friday at 6.66 percent, up just 1 basis point on the week but well above the 5.96 percent it yielded on Jan. 2.

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

Foreign investors' faith in the market should be encouraged by new legislation raising the U.S. debt ceiling to \$5.5 trillion, easing any immediate default risk and freeing the Treasury Department to borrow money from investors until late 1997.

The measure, signed by President Bill Clinton on Friday, prompted Moody's Investors Service Inc. to lift its threat to downgrade America's prized triple-A bond rating.

But some analysts said they expected bond yields to continue rising.

Thomas Sowanick, chief fixed-income strategist at Merrill Lynch, predicted the yield on the 30-year bond would rise to 7.20 percent by the end of the second quarter as the economy continues to grow and the Federal Reserve Board reassesses its monetary policy.

The Fed board voted unanimously to lower interest rates at their Jan. 31 meeting, minutes of the session released Friday showed. But since then, policymakers have been confronted by several indicators pointing to economic growth.

In testimony to Congress last week, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, suggested that economic growth was on track and raised the specter of wage inflation by saying that companies could not continue lifting their profits by reducing salaries.

(Bloomberg, AP, Knight-Ridder)

New International Bond Issues

Compiled by Laurence Desvilettes

Issuer	Amount (millions)	Mat.	Coup. %	Price	Price end week	Terms
Floating Rate Notes						
Banco de Galicia y Buenos Aires	$200	1999	3.70	100.00	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.75%. (SBC Warburg.)
Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur	$100	1999	1/16	100.05	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.125%. Denominations $100,000. (Sanwa Int'l.)
BT Securities	$150	1999	¼	99.95	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to $300 million. Fees 0.07%. Denominations $10,000. (Bear Stearns.)
CS First Boston	$250	1998	0.05	99.81	—	Below 3-month Libor. Redeemable at 99.85 in 1997. Fees not disclosed. Denominations $100,000. (CS First Boston.)
Shinhan Bank	$200	1999	¼	99.94	—	Over 6-month Libor. Reoffered at 99.89. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. Denominations $10,000. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
Fixed-Coupons						
Banco Itau	$100	1997	zero	94.79	—	Yield 7.30%. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. (UBS.)
Banco Rio de la Plata	$200	1996	zero	94.4622	—	Yield 7.88%. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. Denominations $10,000. (Bear Stearns Securities.)
BNG	$200	1999	5⅞	100.9015	99.40	Reoffered at 99.714. Noncallable. Fees 1⅜%. (Merrill Lynch Int'l.)
Companhia Vale do Rio Doce	$300	2004	10	99.8772	—	Redeemable at 99.80 in 2001. Fees 0.875%. (Chase Bank.)
Kredietbank Int'l Finance	$200	1999	6⅛	101.0475	99.70	Reoffered at 99.86. Noncallable. Fees 1⅜%. (Salomon Brothers Int'l.)
Nafinsa	$100	1998	8⅛	99.50	—	Semiannually. Noncallable private placement. Fees not disclosed. Denominations $100,000. (Banque Indosuez.)
Swedish Export Credit	$200	1998	5¾	100.848	99.50	Reoffered at 99.848. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (UBS.)
Telstra	$150	2005	6½	98.628	—	Reoffered at 96.978. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to $400 million. Fees 2%. (J.P. Morgan Securities.)
Walt Disney	$1,300	2001	6⅛	100.00	99.55	Semiannually. Noncallable. Fees 0.35%. (CS First Boston.)
Walt Disney	$1,300	2006	6¾	99.855	99.30	Semiannually. Noncallable. Fees 0.50%. (CS First Boston.)
Argentina	DM250	2006	11¼	101.095	99.13	Reoffered at 99.47. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 750 million marks. Fees 3%. (Deutsche Bank.)
DSL Finance	DM300	2001	5⅝	101.45	99.20	Reoffered at 99.70. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (CS First Boston.)
Abbey National Treasury Services	£200	1998	7⅛	100.9305	—	Reoffered at 99.743. Noncallable. Fees 1⅛%. (J.P. Morgan Securities.)
LB Schleswig-Holstein	£100	1999	7¼	100.409	—	Reoffered at 99.2215. Noncallable. Fees 1⅜%. (HSBC Markets.)
Train Finance I	£91.75	2004	7¾	99.57	—	Noncallable. Also £29.35 million, paying 8⅞% and due 2004. Fees 0.375%. (Nomura Int'l.)
Train Finance I	£81.61	2004	zero	74.15	—	Yield 3.84%. Noncallable. Proceeds £60.3 million. Fees 0.375%. (Nomura Int'l.)
Guinness	FF1,500	2002	6¼	101.04	99.45	Reoffered at 99.49. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Société Générale.)
DSL Bank	DF125	2002	5	101.915	99.20	Interest will be 5% until 1999, 7% thereafter. Reoffered at 100.315. Noncallable. Fees 1⅞%. (Kredietbank.)
European Investment Bank	ITL500,000	2006	zero	38.616	37.80	Reoffered at 38.266. Yield 10.20%. Noncallable. Fungible with outstanding issue, raising total amount to 1.5 trillion lire. Fees 0.50%. (Cariplo.)
World Bank	ITL200,000	1998	zero	84.595	83.47	Yield 8.73%. Noncallable. Proceeds 165 billion lire. Fees 1⅞%. (Banca Nazionale del Lavoro.)
European Investment Bank	SP6,000	2001	7½	111.5833	99.70	Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (Banco Santander de Negocios.)
European Investment Bank	SP7,000	2006	9.30	99.95	—	Interest will be 9.30% until 1999, rising in steps to 11.20% in 2002, then falling back in steps to 10.30 in 2005. Callable at par from 1999. Fees not disclosed. (Banco Santander de Negocios.)
European Bank for Reconstruction & Development	Aus$250	1998	7	98.40	—	Semiannually. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Yamaichi Int'l.)
World Bank	Aus$200	1999	7.60	100.00	—	Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (Kankaku.)
Bacob Overseas	Y10,000	2001	1	92.85	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. Denominations 100 million yen. (Nikko Europe.)
Ford Motor Credit Corp.	Y30,000	2001	2.65	100.05	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. Denominations 100 million yen. (Nomura Int'l.)
Int'l Finance Corp.	Y16,000	1998	6.60	100.00	—	Semiannually. Redeemable at maturity in Australian dollars. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (IBJ Int'l.)
Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank	Y15,000	2011	4.33	96.40	—	Coupon payable in Australian dollars. Noncallable. Also 5 billion yen, due 2006 and paying 4%. Fees 0.40%. (Nomura Int'l.)
Equity-Linked						
Banpu Public Company	$100	2003	2¾	100.00	—	Redeemable at 141.80 at maturity to yield 7.37%. Convertible at 720 baht per share, a 12.50% premium, and at 25.25 baht per dollar. Fees 2½%. (J.P. Morgan Securities.)
Great Eagle Finance	$110	2001	3¼	100.00	—	Noncallable. Convertible at HK$26.208 per share, a 17% premium. Fees not disclosed. (Goldman Sachs Asia.)
United Communications Industry	$200	2006	2¾	100.00	—	Redeemable at 126.3312 in 2001 to yield 1.10 over Treasuries. Convertible at 388 baht per share, an 11½% premium, and at 25.24 baht per dollar. Fees 2½%. (UBS.)

Last Week's Markets

Stock Indexes

	March 29	March 22	% Ch'ge
United States			
DJ Indus.	5,587.14	5,636.64	—0.88
DJ Util.	212.76	214.50	—0.81
DJ Trans.	2,152.10	2,197.67	—2.07
S & P 100	622.20	628.37	—0.98
S & P 500	645.50	650.62	—0.79
S & P Ind	761.80	768.57	—0.88
NYSE Cp	346.93	348.77	—0.53
Japan			
Nikkei 225	21,406.85	20,700.92	+ 3.41
Britain			
FTSE 100	3,699.70	3,707.00	— 0.20
Canada			
TSE Indus.	4,970.80	5,[illegible]958.60	+0.37
France			
CAC 40	2,044.77	1,974.35	+ 3.57
Germany			
DAX	2,485.87	2,504.02	— 0.72
Hong Kong			
Hang Seng	10,957.20	11,026.70	— 0.63
World			
MSCIP	760.39	757.65	+ 0.36

World index from Morgan Stanley Capital Int'l Perspective.

Money Rates

	March 29	March 22
United States		
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8¼	8¼
Federal funds rate	5.00	5 5/16
Japan		
Discount	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.44	0.41
3-month interbank	0.66	0.69
Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6⅛	5¾
3-month interbank	6 1/16	6.00
France		
Intervention rate	3.80	3.80
Call money	3 15/16	4.00
3-month interbank	4 1/16	4⅛
Germany		
Lombard	5.00	5.00
Call money	4.00	3.35
3-month interbank	3.35	3.35

Gold	Mar. 29	Mar. 22	% Ch'ge
London p.m. fix $	396.35	397.70	-0.34

Euromarts

Eurobond Yields

	Mar. 29	Mar. 22	Yr High	Yr Low
U.S. $, long term	6.68	6.67	6.73	4.17
U.S. $, medm term	6.28	6.21	4.28	5.61
U.S. $, short term	5.71	5.62	5.74	5.19
Pounds sterling	7.63	7.60	7.65	6.99
French francs	6.18	6.21	6.38	6.08
Italian lire	9.69	9.65	10.45	9.42
Danish kroner	6.33	6.46	6.51	5.95
Swedish kronor	7.47	7.82	8.55	7.47
ECUs, long term	7.44	7.50	7.50	6.86
ECUs, medm term	6.51	6.54	6.56	5.89
Can. $	7.27	7.35	7.37	6.56
Aus. $	8.76	8.78	8.81	7.99
N.Z. $	7.99	8.14	8.26	7.04
Yen	2.56	2.55	2.74	2.28

Source: Luxembourg stock exchange.

Weekly Sales

March 28

Primary Market

	Cedel Bk $	Cedel Bk Non$	Euroclear $	Euroclear Non$
Straights	57.6	369.5	2,442.8	2,157.3
Convert.	1.5	1.3	109.1	85.8
FRNs	308.7	514.3	2,809.1	596.0
ECP	9,740.4	7,565.3	7,770.2	8,617.3
Total	10,108.2	16,450.4	13,131.2	11456.4

Secondary Market

	Cedel Bk $	Cedel Bk Non$	Euroclear $	Euroclear Non$
Straights	13,118.1	20,666.4	53,201.4	26,813.8
Convert.	799.2	629.1	2,474.7	1,536.3
FRNs	10,871.7	3,292.2	47,267.7	12,240.7
ECP	8,398.6	14,630.0	14,062.2	31,565.5
Total	33,187.6	39,217.7	117,006.	[illegible]

Source: Euroclear, Cedel Bank.

Libor Rates

March 29

	1-month	3-month	6-month
U.S. $	5 7/16	5⅜	5 7/16
Deutsche mark	3⅜	3⅜	3 7/16
Pound sterling	6 1/16	6⅛	6 3/16
French franc	4⅛	4 3/16	4¼
ECU	4⅜	4⅜	4½
Yen	⅝	½	¾

Sources: Lloyds Bank, Reuters.

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SHORT COVER

Massive Cuts for German Pensions

FRANKFURT (Combined Dispatches) — Labor Minister Norbert Blüm plans to suggest spending cuts of up to 13 billion Deutsche marks ($8.80 billion) to ease strains on the German pension program, according to a Sunday newspaper report.

The Welt am Sonntag did not cite its source but said savings would come from such cost-cutting measures as raising the age at which women can retire to 63 from 60, giving future immigrants to Germany smaller pensions and reducing pension benefits for health spa visits.

The report came as labor strife increase in Germany, with the leader of the metalworkers union IG Metall warning of daily strikes if industry leaders create a national association not bound by the national contract with his union.

Construction workers said they would demand a 5 percent increase in wages at talks scheduled to start Wednesday.

(Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg, AP)

Taiwan Counters U.S. and Japan

TAIPEI (AFP) — Officials in Taiwan accused the United States and Japan on Sunday of setting up unfair trade barriers in response to similar charges made by the two nations.

A survey by the Board of Foreign Trade had shown that the two countries imposed high tariffs or bars on at least 10 products from Taiwan, the officials said.

Washington has accused Taipei of imposing high tariffs on cars, steel products, medicine, fruits, flowers and cosmetics. Tokyo said Taipei had imposed high tariffs on Japanese farm and steel products and banned imports of small- and medium-sized cars.

Pacific Telesis Wins U.S. Licenses

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Pacific Telesis Group Inc. said Sunday that it had successfully bid for 11 regional licenses at an auction by the Federal Communications Commission that ended Thursday.

"These new wireless licenses advance our strategy for bringing high-quality wireless digital TV to market," said President Michael Fitzpatrick of Pacific Telesis Enterprises.

Pacific Telesis said it had bid a total of $20.8 million for the commercial licenses.

No More IMF Credits for Belarus

MINSK (Reuters) — The International Monetary Fund has given up any notion of resuming credits to Belarus in view of the poor state of the former Soviet republic's market reforms and economic indicators.

A weeklong IMF mission concluded last week that it could not proceed with successive tranches of a $300 million standby loan promised last year. The first installment, $70 million, was disbursed in September.

"There is no political will to continue market-oriented stabilization and structural reform," a Fund official said.

Brazil Deregulates Gasoline Prices

BRASILIA (Bloomberg) — Brazil has freed the state-set prices of gasoline and methanol at the pump for most of the country in a move to create a free market for fuel.

Service stations will be able to sell gasoline and methanol, which is used by two-fifths of Brazil's 11 million cars, at the price they wish as of Tuesday, the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Ministry said.

In remote regions of the country, the government set a new ceiling for fuel prices of 10 percent above the regulated price of about $2 a gallon, officials said.

Home Shopping Taps Schwarzkopf

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (Bloomberg) — Home Shopping Network Inc. has nominated General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of operations for the Desert Storm assault operation in the Gulf War, to become a director of the television retailer.

Shareholders of the company, whose 24-hour programming reaches 65 million households, will vote on the move May 9.

China's New Tariffs: Welcome, Worrisome

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING — Dramatic reductions in Chinese import tariffs are to begin Monday, but analysts said the cuts would still leave Beijing far from meeting market-access requirements for joining the World Trade Organization.

The announcement of the move, which will see tariffs fall on nearly 5,000 of 6,000 import items and reduce average rates to around 23 percent from 35 percent, made President Jiang Zemin the center of attention at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Osaka in November.

But diplomats said that, while the cuts were welcome, details of the new rates published in newspapers in recent months had revealed a number of worrisome anomalies, particularly in the sensitive agricultural sector.

Moreover, they said, hundreds of nontariff barriers, like import license requirements and other irregularities, still hindered foreign trade with China and would block its entry into the WTO for the foreseeable future.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction, but they still have a lot of ground to cover" in trade reform, a foreign analyst said.

He said the government's main motivation for cutting tariffs was not opening up the country's markets but raising revenue by reducing duties to levels that deterred people from resorting to smuggling, which now costs the state vast sums in lost taxes.

"This is largely a revenue-generating measure that can be presented as trade liberalization," the analyst said, noting that, along with cutting tariffs, Beijing was gradually eliminating duty exemptions and upgrading customs authorities' fee-collecting efficiency.

A Western diplomat agreed, citing World Bank figures showing that the numerous exemptions and rampant smuggling had reduced China's actual import duty revenue to less than 6 percent, compared with the average published tariff rate of 35 percent.

"If they can ensure payment, they can reduce tariffs by a large margin and push revenue up," he said.

But another diplomat who has studied the new tariffs said that for a total 4,962 items, "protectionism has won the day" in certain key sectors. He cited the fledgling automobile industry, where the new tariff of between 100 percent and 130 percent, while lower, "is still going to keep large numbers of efficient foreign cars out of China" and have little impact on widespread smuggling.

But the sector causing particular concern among analysts is agriculture.

Under the new agricultural regime, China has introduced "tariff-rate quotas" designed as a shift away from nontariff barriers and a move toward international practice. Some 30 affected agricultural imports are to be charged at one rate within the quota and then at prohibitively high levels.

But, as of Sunday, quota levels for some key goods — including rice, corn and wheat — that have inexplicably lost their former tariff-free status had not been published.

"Everyone wants to know the quotas," the diplomat said. "If they're unreasonably low, the tariff cuts are meaningless."

Kirch Group to Start Digital TV Broadcasts

Reuters

FRANKFURT — Kirch Group plans to start transmitting 12 digital television programs on Monday in preparation for the introduction of a wider program selection in July, according to a published report.

Digitales Fernsehen 1, or DF1, eventually will transmit some 50 programs, including movies, specialty programs and pay-per-view, the German weekly magazine Der Spiegel reported.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, April 1-5

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Americas
Expected This Week	**Taipei:** Electronics Spring Show at the Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall. Through Thursday. **Tokyo:** Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting. Through Wednesday; Japan-Pakistan joint commission meeting. Through Tuesday.	**Earnings expected:** Bayerische Hypotheken- & Wechselbank AG, Royal PTT Nederland NV, Tarmac PLC, Dresdner Bank AG, Frankfurter Hypothekenbank Centralboden AG, Hugo Boss AG, IHC Caland NV and London & Manchester Group PLC.	**Detroit:** United Auto Workers collective bargaining convention. **Washington:** Telecommunications Industry Association and the Commerce Department hold a conference to help high-technology companies getinformation on the sources of trade finance.
Monday April 1	**Taipei:** Taiwan-China trade figures for January released by the Board of Foreign Trade. **Tokyo:** Japan Automobile Dealers Association releases auto sales for March; Ministry of Finance releases foreign currency reserves.	**Brussels or Luxembourg:** EU agricultural officials discuss a ban on exports of British beef products. **Copenhagen:** March purchasing managers' index. **London:** March economic trends survey.	**Caracas:** Central bank releases March inflation figures. **Tempe, Arizona:** National Association of Purchasing Management releases its index for March. **Washington:** February construction spending.
Tuesday April 2	**Penang, Malaysia:** Palmco Holdings Bhd. holds a special general meeting at Casuarina Beach Hotel. **Tokyo:** Japan Committee for Economic Development news conference; Bank of Japan releases December corporate service prices.	**Copenhagen:** Danish central bank releases March currency reserves; Danmarks Statistik releases March consumer confidence. **London:** March official reserves released by the Treasury. **Rome:** January hourly wage data.	**Bogota:** March inflation figures. **Washington:** Commerce Department reports its final estimate of economic growth for the fourth quarter. Preliminary figures showed the economy grew at a 0.9 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter.
Wednesday April 3	**Jakarta:** March consumer prices; January merchandise trade data. **Tokyo:** Yasuo Matsushita, Bank of Japan governor, speaks the Toyo Keizai Building; Japan Federation of Employers' Association news conference.	**Copenhagen:** Danmarks Statistik releases preliminary December trade balance and current account **Paris:** Canal Plus SA holds news conference on its plans to launch a new cluster of digital television channels. Carrousel du Louvre.	**Buenos Aires:** Preliminary February trade figures. **Ottawa:** March monetary reserves; February's building permits. **Washington:** February factory orders, February personal income and spending.
Thursday April 4	**Tokyo:** Ministry of Finance releases trade balance for first 20 days of March; Japan Automobile Importers Association releases imported vehicle sales for March; Ministry of International Trade and Industry news conference.	**London:** February housing starts released by the Department of Trade and Industry; Labor market trends released by the Office of National Statistics. **Paris:** Bank of France monetary policy council meets.	**Ottawa:** March labor force survey. **Sao Paulo:** National Association of Carmakers releases first-quarter sales and production data. **Washington:** Initial weekly state unemployment insurance claims; February housing completions.
Friday April 5	**Kuala Lumpur:** Last day to apply for shares in Global Carriers Bhd.'s public offering. **Tokyo:** Economic Planning Agency news conference; Leo Co. auctions shares as part of its initial public offering.	**Budapest:** Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, meets Arpad Goncz, the president of Hungary. **Rome:** March consumer inflation.	**Houston:** Baker Hughes Inc. releases its weekly survey of the number of active oil and gas drilling rigs in the United States and Canada. **Washington:** Federal Reserve releases weekly commercial and industrial loans at commercial banks.

Qantas Has No Plans to Sell Air New Zealand Stake

Reuters

SYDNEY — The chief executive of Qantas Airways Ltd., James Strong, said Sunday the airline had no plans to sell its 19.4 percent stake in Air New Zealand Ltd. despite Air NZ's proposal to buy 50 percent of Ansett Airlines Australia Ltd.

New Zealand's Commerce Commission is expected to rule this week on whether to allow Air New Zealand to buy the 50 percent stake in Ansett held by Australian transport group TNT Ltd. Ansett competes with Air New Zealand in the New Zealand domestic market and with Qantas in Australia.

SEC Draws Fire For Approval of Trading Systems

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Securities and Exchange Commission has approved a controversial system that lets brokers execute trades on a computer away from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange and other markets.

Some academics sharply criticized the SEC's approval, announced Friday, of the Cincinnati Stock Exchange trading system, saying it may limit the opportunities for customers to get the best price.

"The overwhelming evidence shows that customers receive the best possible price when their orders are traded directly with other customers in an auction market," the NYSE said.

Also approved Friday was a pilot program at the Boston Stock Exchange that permits multiple, competing specialists for stocks on the exchange. Such a trading system allows brokerages to send customer orders to themselves for execution.

The SEC said both programs "have helped the exchanges compete" and "enhance their market quality."

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Shareholders are invited to attend the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

which will be held at 5, Boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg on April 19, 1996 at 10.00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Auditors.
2. Approval of the financial statements as of December 31, 1995.
3. Decision on allocation of net profits.
4. Discharge of the Directors and of the Auditors in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995.
5. Election of the Directors and of the Auditors.
6. Miscellaneous business.

NOTES:

Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting:

— in person by producing at the Meeting either share certificates or a certificate of deposit issued by their bank which will be issued to them against deposit of their share certificates

— by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of the share certificates as aforesaid.

Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

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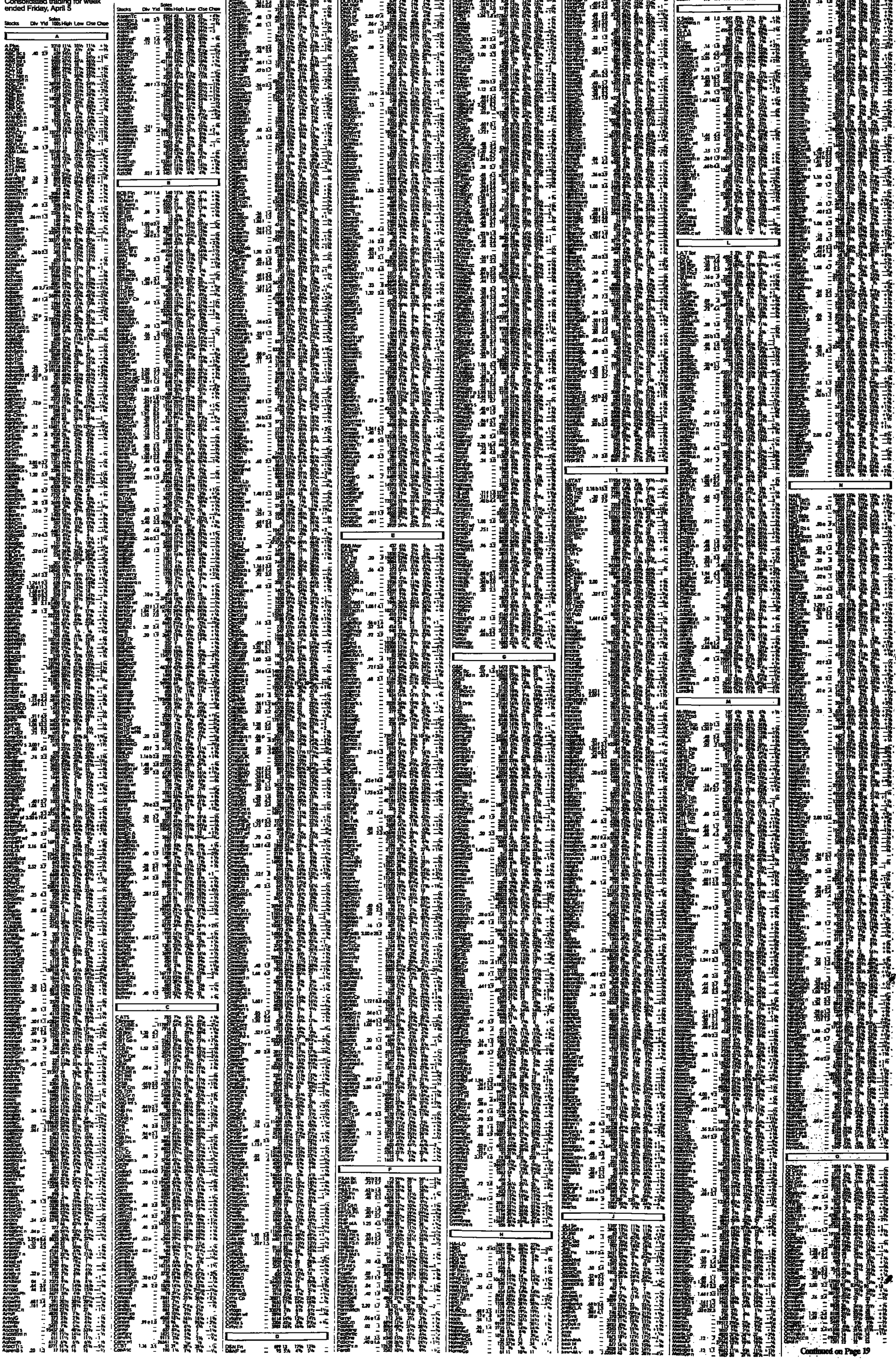
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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, April 5



Continued on Page 19

Sweden Plans Budget Cuts Of Around $900 Million

Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Prime Minister Goran Persson is working on plans to trim Sweden's budget deficit by about 6 billion kronor ($898.7 million), a government spokesman said Sunday.

The measures could combine tax increases and spending cuts, according to reports in the Swedish press.

Jan Larsson, a spokesman for Mr. Persson, said the prime minister "believes that the budget for 1997 is short of 5-to-6 billion kronor." Further measures for 1998 could not be ruled out, he added. Mr. Persson, a former finance minister, took office last month.

The daily newspaper Svenska Dagbladet reported Saturday that savings or tax increases amounting to 18 billion kronor in 1997 and 1998 were being planned.

Deborah Bennelick, an economist at Union Bank of Switzerland, said that for next year, deeper cuts were needed. "Savings of around 25-30 billion kronor are needed provided that the economic situation does not change drastically."

Over the past quarter of a century, Sweden has fallen from being one of the richest countries in the world to No. 17, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's measurements of per capita income and purchasing power.

Several cutbacks have already been made to the country's welfare system, but unemployment has risen to about 8 percent of the work force, double the level in the 1980s.

Mr. Persson, who initiated an austerity program in his previous role as finance minister, says his overriding goal is to cut unemployment and state debt.

His main targets are to have a budget deficit below 3 percent of gross domestic product by 1997 and to balance the budget by 1998.

Nordbanken, a commercial bank, suggested that "a major part" of the savings would come from privatization of state-owned companies.

Crowds at Book Fair Mask Industry Fears

By Richard Covington
Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS — Judging from the 200,000 visitors who crowded into the Parc des Expositions for the 16th annual Salon du Livre, the six-day book fair that ended last week, reports of the imminent demise of the book appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

Yet beneath the gratifying public turnout lurked fears among publishers of shrinking distribution and conglomerate takeovers of publishing houses large and small.

Generously subsidized by the French Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Culture, the Salon du Livre invited nearly 100 American writers as representatives of the guest country of honor. Within the past two years, sales by American authors in France have jumped by about 20 percent, according to industry figures.

"French publishers love American books because they sell so many of them," said Alberto Vitale, chairman and chief executive of Random House Inc., the largest trade book publisher in the world.

They are less delighted at their own sales in the United States, where revenues from French works in English translation have slumped an equivalent 20 percent over the same period.

In the United States, sales of more than 50,000 book titles stood at $19.6 billion last year, up nearly 3 percent from 1994. In France, with a population one-fourth that of the United States, publishers issued close to 42,000 titles with sales of some 15 billion francs ($2.98 billion).

French publishers fret that American-style marketing and demands for high profitability will erode a traditional, family run model that clings to the notion of book publishing as an artisanal craft.

"The French are facing some of the same problems U.S. publishers faced 10 years ago," said André Schiffrin, publisher of the nonprofit New Press in New York. "In the United States and Britain, the larger media companies that have bought publishing houses are insisting on 20 percent profit margins. The French firms are far from being this profitable."

French publishers like Christian Bourgois, who first brought Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs and the Beat Generation to the attention of the French in the 1960s, lamented the dwindling market for serious books and the dangers of following the American publishing model in France.

"The problem is that large media corporations have bought up publishing houses without truly being passionate about books," Mr. Bourgois said. "The future, particularly for avant-garde works and anything not aimed at a mass market, lies in the 19th century, in hewing to the same artisanal approach to publishing."

Some smaller publishers see the acquisition of book companies by diversified corporations as a blessing. "Since the major houses need to publish 15,000 to 20,000 copies of a book to stay profitable and please the stockholders, that leaves the field wide open for smaller publishers who can afford to stay afloat issuing 5,000 copies or less," said Ira Silverberg of Serpent's Tail, a small press with offices in the United States and Britain.

The economies of scale leave Serpent's Tail and other independent publishers more free to experiment with poetry, essays, writers from marginalized communities and works in translation. Mr. Silverberg said.

But according to Mr. Schiffrin and others, selling anything short of blockbuster titles in the bookstore chains has become increasingly difficult. In France, where bookstore chains are virtually unheard of, distribution is nonetheless emerging as a key problem.

"Every year there are fewer bookstores than the year before and the ones that remain are stocking fewer books," Mr. Bourgois said. From around 1,500 bookshops a decade ago, there are now fewer than 1,000, he said.

Japan Stocks: The Bulls Are Running

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — After years of a seemingly relentless decline that clouded the economic atmosphere, the Tokyo stock market now seems to be on an intrepid climb, inflating hopes that at last the sun may shine on Japanese stocks.

Spurred in part by an emerging economic recovery, the Tokyo stock market is up about 50 percent from its nine-year nadir of last July. In the past two weeks alone, the benchmark Nikkei Stock Average has gained about 8 percent. On Friday, the 225-share index reached its highest point since June 1994.

"For four years, it used to be that stocks were rocks, for all they ever do is fall," said Jesper Koll, an economist at J.P. Morgan Securities Asia Ltd. "Now, we are at a sweet spot for equities."

Low interest rates have helped entice investors into stocks and intense worries over the nation's bad-debt debacle seem to be subsiding slightly, partly with the planned write-offs this year of more than $95 billion in unrecoverable debt at financial institutions.

Moreover, most of industrial Japan is making money again and foreign investors have swooped in bearing armfuls of cash. Foreign investors, particularly from Europe, poured in about $20 billion in the first two and a half months this year, and while Japanese investors were net sellers for the same period, they started to buy stocks in March.

"There's a fear of not owning Japanese stocks," said Kathy M. Matsui, a strategist at Goldman, Sachs (Japan) Ltd. "If you don't own it and the market goes up, you'll be far, far behind your competitors."

These days, foreigners investors in Japan are fond of quoting a Japanese saying, *todai moto kurashi*, or those at the base of a lighthouse cannot see the light. But whether or not Japanese investors will see the potential boom unfolding before their own eyes is a crucial test of how long the market buoyancy can be sustained.

Some aggressive forecasts put the Nikkei index at nearly 25,000 by the end of this year, although past predictions of the Tokyo market have been predictably inaccurate. The index rose 111.03 points Friday to close at 21,406.85.

"I'm a bull in the market," said Jason C. James, market strategist at James Capel Pacific Ltd. "My view is that its fundamentals are indisputably much stronger than before."

Mr. James is more bullish than most and some strategists are much more cautious, but he predicts that the Nikkei index will hit 24,500 by year-end, with much of that gain coming in the next six months.

For one thing, he said, alternatives to stocks, like bonds, are yielding only about 3 percent, prompting investors to seek higher returns. For another, by his estimates, corporate profit growth, excluding the ailing financial institutions, will show a 75 percent increase in earnings per share for this financial year, which ended Sunday.

When losses from financial institutions are accounted for, that corporate growth falls to zero. But Mr. James and other optimists argue that write-offs by banks this year are one-time events and that the banks will become profitable again in the coming years.

Some market strategists are much more cautious, partly because corporate growth forecasts for this year and next may already be mostly reflected in current stock prices, and projecting profits for 1998 is anything but a sure bet.

ATM Rush Bleeds Failed Japan Bank

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Banking regulators awaited the Monday morning opening of Taiheiyo Bank branches with trepidation Sunday after a rush on automated teller machines by nearly 3,500 account holders bled the failed Tokyo institution of 748 million yen ($7.0 million).

The rush began Saturday, hours after the government ordered the bank's liquidation.

Taiheiyo executives quoted by the Japan Times said there had been no panic during the withdrawals and that the machines always had enough cash.

The rush came even though government and banking authorities had guaranteed that all accounts would be honored.

Taiheiyo is the second regional bank to fail because of nonperforming housing loans issued before the collapse of the so-called bubble economy of the late 1980s.

Hyogo Bank Ltd., based in Kobe, went under in August.

Five other financial institutions have closed since two Tokyo-based credit unions failed in December 1994.

"Because of the problem loans weighing on the banking industry, we might see more financial failures this year, possibly six or so," said Yoshinobu Yamada of Merrill Lynch Japan Inc.

Among the 21 biggest banks in Japan, 17 have announced that they would post losses for the year that ended Sunday in order to dispose of bad loans.

Under the liquidation plan arranged by the Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry, Sakura Bank Ltd., Fuji Bank Ltd., Tokai Bank Ltd. and Sanwa Bank Ltd. will establish a new bank to take over Taiheiyo's deposits and healthy assets.

The four banks each had a 5 percent stake in Taiheiyo.

"Depositors' jitters have been eased by the four creditor banks' support," a Bank of Japan official said, "and the central bank does not believe special loans under Article 25 of the Bank of Japan Law will be necessary."

Article 25 requires the central bank to take all measures necessary to assure the stability of the financial system.

Analysts also downplayed the impact of the liquidation.

"The size of the bank's problem loans were not as big compared with the collapse of some other financial institutions in the past year," said Yasuo Ueki of Nikko Securities Ltd. "Big commercial banks have already said they are determined to protect Taiheiyo's depositors."

A Bank of Japan official said Taiheiyo held nonperforming loans worth 280 billion yen, of which 170 billion yen will have to be written off. That left the bank with a negative net worth of 130 billion yen. *(AFP, Reuters)*

HOUSING: *Britain Seeks Single Buyer for Units*

Continued from Page 13

pledged to hand over 600 to 800 more.

That hand-off has developers salivating with visions of shopping malls, chic urban villages and commercial office strips.

"That's where the money is to be made," said Simon Ward, a partner at Jones Lang Wootton, a real estate advisory firm. "By reletting or redeveloping the released property, an investor can substantially boost his return."

This year, service personnel living in an average three- or four-bedroom house will pay rent of about £80 a month. Christopher Nicolle of NatWest Markets, the unit of National Westminster Bank PLC that is handling the sale for the government, estimates that similar housing would rent for at least four times that in the open market.

But a number of those who paid £15,000 just to be certified as bidders are not so sure. Some fear the challenges of getting the property up to market standards will be too costly.

"We looked at it but decided that it did not measure up to our investment standards," said Jerry I. Speyer, president of Tishman Speyer, the New York-based real estate company that has significant holdings on the Continent.

Additionally, some probable buyers are uncomfortable with the government's promise to release up to 800 houses a year for redevelopment, supposedly the deal's biggest enticement.

The problem is, the government will not tell bidders which properties it will release because it does not know what its housing needs will be.

"That's a gamble," said a potential buyer who decided not to bid. "You cannot predict with any great certainty what your return might be."

The government has assured interested investors that they could petition the military to release particular units, as long as they provided comparable alternative housing. But some of those who have looked at the property are concerned that process will be cumbersome.

"I reckon there's going to be a very substantial difference between the highest and the lowest bids they get," said Bob Curry, a corporate finance adviser at Dresdner Bank Kleinwort Benson who is helping a group of British housing associations on their bid. "That's because people are going to be guessing — there's no other word for it — at what they'll actually be getting."

Despite that worry, he said the sale would attract more than enough bidders.

"The level of interest is very high," he said. "I'd be surprised if they don't get something in the £1 billion to £2 billion range."

Several U.S. companies that initially expressed interest have discovered they simply lack the stomach for the deal, observers say, because it requires weeks of time-consuming analysis and extensive knowledge of zoning and planning processes.

Other potential buyers have complained that many of the houses would need extensive renovation before they could be leased to civilians. Some are isolated on military bases, often set apart from nearby towns and villages.

To protect itself from potential criticism that it undersold the property, the government has retained the right to participate in any profits realized by the buyer from a sale of units it has vacated.

"The purchaser gets a priority return," said Ian Marcus of NatWest Markets, "but anything above that gets shared with the Ministry of Defense."

"It's all those kinds of issues that have caused some people to have second thoughts," Mr. Inskip said. "But we reckon we've got the expertise to cope with them."

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which will be held at 5, Boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg on April 19, 1996 at 10.30 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Auditors.
2. Approval of the financial statements as of December 31, 1995.
3. Decision on allocation of net profits.
4. Discharge of the Directors and of the Auditors in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1995.
5. Election of the Directors and of the Auditors.
6. Miscellaneous business.

NOTES:

Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting:

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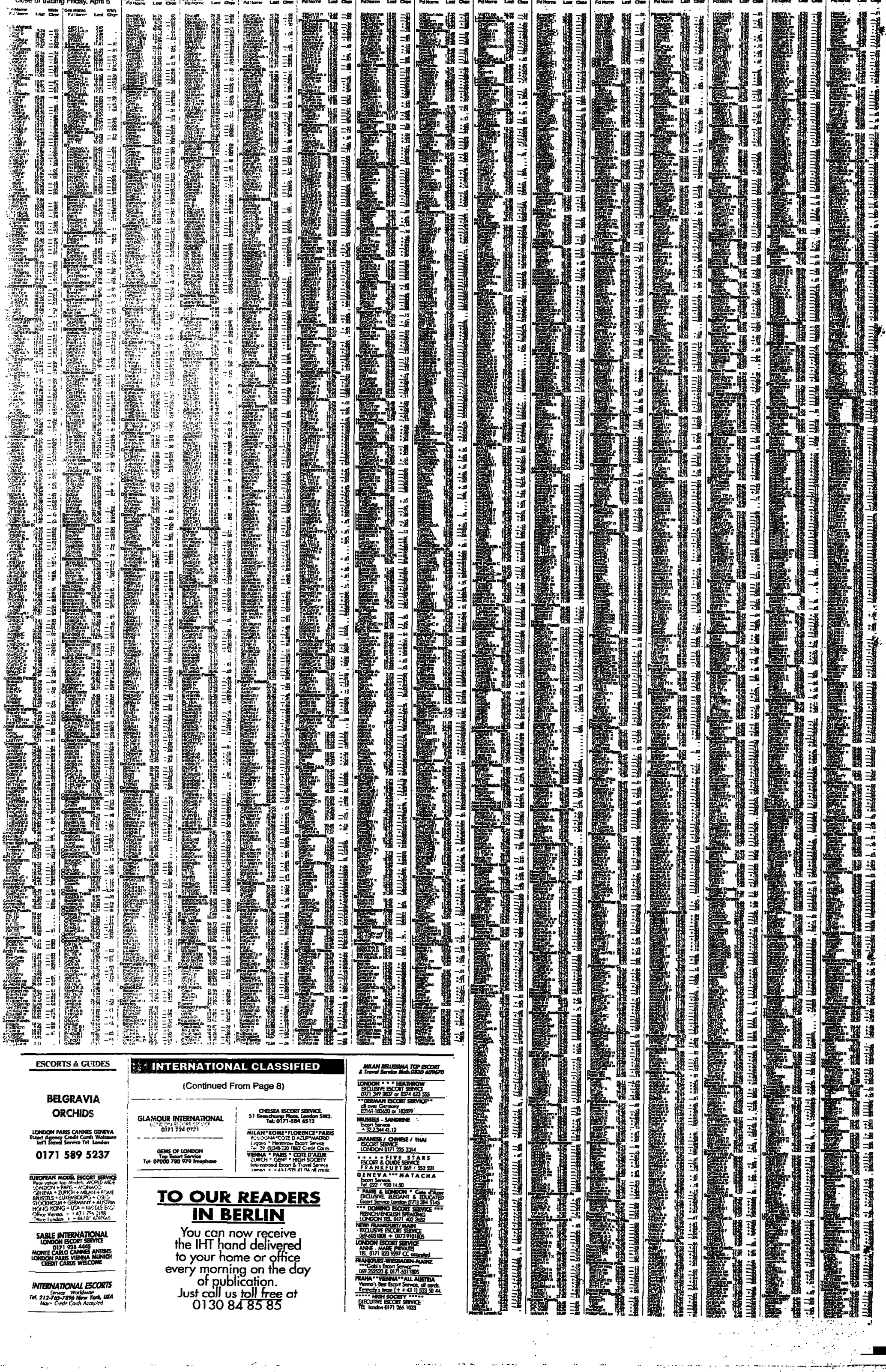
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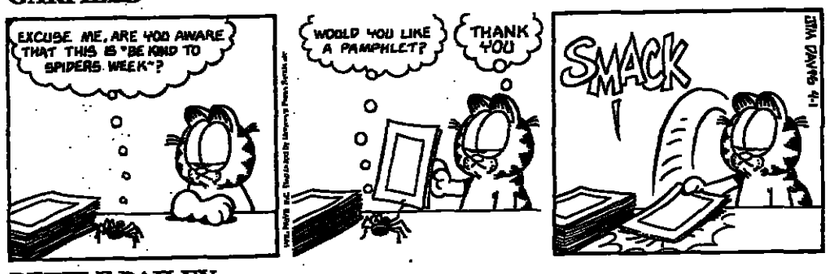
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SPORTS

Liverpool Reaches Final And Faces an Old Enemy

Reuters

Two goals by Robbie Fowler carried Liverpool to a 3-0 victory over Aston Villa in an English F.A. Cup semifinal at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Sunday.

Earlier at Villa Park in Birmingham, Manchester United came from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1.

Fowler scored with a 16th-minute diving header and a left-foot volley from 20

SOCCER ROUNDUP

meters (22 yards), four minutes from time. Jason McAteer scored the third goal in the final minute.

Manchester United will be making its third consecutive finals appearance, becoming only the third club in this century to achieve the feat. The team stayed on course for an unprecedented second English-league and cup double with second-half goals from Andy Cole and David Beckham.

United looked vulnerable in the first half and fell behind 11 minutes before the break when unguarded Ruud Gullit headed home the game's first goal.

Cole scored the equalizer after 55 minutes when he touched home an Eric Cantona header from close range. Three minutes later, Beckham intercepted a poor pass and scored with a scuffed shot that bounced over goalkeeper Kevin Hitchcock's leg.

In Saturday's Premier League games, Queen's Park Rangers climbed off the bottom of the table with a 3-0 home victory over Southampton. Rangers went in front with a first goal for the club by left back Rufus Brevett in the 23d minute. Daniele Dichio and Kevin Gallen added second-half goals.

Rangers overtook Bolton Wanderers — held to a 1-1 tie at home by Manchester City — and Coventry City, which was beaten 3-1 at Tottenham Hotspur.

ITALY Milan's captain Franco Baresi celebrated his 500th league appearance in a 2-0 victory at Piacenza Sunday that restored Milan's eight-point lead in serie A.

Juventus had cut Milan's lead to five points after beating Parma 1-0 on Saturday in a game brought forward to allow the Turin team an extra day to prepare for Wednesday's European Cup semifinal.

Marcel Desailly put Milan ahead with a glancing header in the 52d minute. Marco Simone made it 2-0 in the 65th.

Baresi, who has played 439 serie A and 61 serie B games, all for Milan, was booked in the second half.

GERMANY Bayern Munich beat the reigning champion and league leader, Borussia Dortmund, 1-0, to go on top of the Bundesliga Saturday.

A goal by the German international midfielder, Mehmet Scholl, in the 38th minute steered the Bundesliga champions to a crucial victory in an intense clash played before a capacity crowd of 63,000 in Munich.

Bayern now has a two-point lead over Dortmund but has played one more game.

SPAIN Real Madrid did Barcelona a favor Saturday when it beat the Spanish league leader Atletico, 2-1, in a Madrid derby in which both teams were reduced to ten men.

The result left Atletico just five points ahead of Barcelona, which won 1-0 at Albacete. Real jumped from eighth to sixth.

Real went ahead in the 29th minute when overlapping full-back Miguel Soler blasted a shot past goalkeeper Juan Molina. After Atletico's Diego Simeone was sent off, Real made it 2-0 in a counter-attack when Laudrup nonchalantly side-footed the ball past Molina.

Fernando Hierro was sent off when he handled a cross six minutes from the end and Atletico's Milinko Pantic pulled one back from the penalty.

FRANCE Sabri Lamouchi scored twice as Auxerre, profiting from Paris-Saint-Germain's 3-2 home defeat by Metz, surged to the top of the French first division with a 4-0 win over Lille on Saturday. Paris-Saint-Germain, which lost 3-0 to Auxerre last Sunday, is one point behind the new leaders.

Auxerre, looking for its first French-league title, went in front after only eight minutes when Lille defender Patrick Collot turned a free kick by Corentin Martins into his own goal. Lamouchi scored twice before halftime and then three minutes after the break.

Paris-Saint-Germain lacked its attacking players, Youri Djorkaeff and Rai, but it was the defense that let it down. Robert Pires struck twice for Auxerre in counter-attacks in the 36th and 70th minutes. Cyril Pouget scored Metz's second goal in the 50th minute. The Midfielders Laurent Fournier and Paul Le Guen scored for PSG.

NETHERLANDS Ajax Amsterdam lost 2-0 at Roda JC Kerkrade on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Luc Nilis scored twice as second-place PSV Eindhoven beat Willem II, 5-2, narrowing the Ajax lead to five points with six games left.



John Giles/The Associated Press

Horses clearing a jump at the Grand National steeplechase, won by Rough Quest with Mick Fitzgerald up.

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International Herald Tribune

Vantage Point / IAN THOMSEN

LIVERPOOL, England — The Grand National is a deadly, thrilling maze and Mick Fitzgerald's horse had escaped it first. Next was a nearly unbearable 10-minute wait for the jockey, as stewards decided whether to punish his horse, Rough Quest, for shouldering past a rival in the final strides of the world's greatest steeplechase on Saturday.

"I don't think I've ever been as frightened in all my life," said Fitzgerald, a 25-year old Irish jockey, after the decision came down in his favor. "It's one thing to win a race of this caliber. It's another thing to wait for 10 agonizing minutes to see if it's going to be taken away from you."

First run in 1900, the Grand National might be the world's greatest horse race of any kind — or it might be the worst. It is 4½ miles (7.2 kilometers) long, and some of the 30 jumps have been eased to suit modern sensitivities. Yet as recently as 1994, only six of 36 horses finished.

All but 10 favorites this century have been humbled by the Aintree course, if not destroyed. Rough Quest became the first favorite to win since 1982. In seven previous tries, Fitzgerald had completed both laps only once.

"Just by finishing it you feel like you've won in a way — and then to actually win it," Fitzgerald said. "I'll not enjoy 12 minutes like that for a long time."

Animal-rights activists held a peaceful protest Friday, motivated by the deaths of 10 horses at the National Hunt Festival in similar conditions at Cheltenham two weeks ago. About 400 police officers, 500 security guards and 18 closed-circuit cameras had been alerted for a protest.

By the third fence, the lost hopes included two unseated jockeys plus Party Politics, the mammoth 1992 champion. 12 years old, with a breathing tube cut surgically into his throat like a shiny piece of kitchen plumbing. In no particular rhythm, one or another would tumble to a public gasp, followed by the announcement of its name to a louder, bankrupt groan. Every jump extended the horses, sleekened them romantically. Sometimes the forelegs looked like branches under a falling trunk.

For more than three miles Fitzgerald patiently held back Rough Quest, who had been surging toward this race since running second at the Cheltenham Gold Cup 16 days before. He had been entered here after satisfying his 55- year-old owner, Andrew Wates, in a training run.

Following the penultimate jump, he made up a four-length deficit, bullied past the leader, Encore Un Peu (14-1), who had been trying to become the first France-bred winner since 1909, and seized his inside lane for a 1¼-length victory. Superior Finish (9-1), ridden by Richard Dunwoody, was a distant third.

While Fitzgerald and his trainer, Terry Casey, were waiting for the inquiry ruling that the bumping had been accidental and had not affected the outcome, millions of Britons were sweating with them. More than £70 million ($106.8 million) was gambled on the race, more than any other event can attract on this betting-mad island. Of the 27 starters, the smallest field since 1960, 10 did not finish.

Rust Never Sleeps, a 12-year-old, fractured his shoulder and did not survive.

Penguins Gain Spot In Playoffs

Reuters

Ken Wregget made 38 saves and Petr Nedved notched his 41st goal as the Pittsburgh Penguins won a defensive struggle against the New Jersey Devils, 2-1, to nail down a playoff berth.

The Penguins, who have won four in a row and six of their last seven games, increased their lead atop the

NHL ROUNDUP

Eastern Conference to five points over Philadelphia and six points over the New York Rangers in the battle for the home-ice advantage through the playoffs.

Scott Stevens scored the lone goal for the Devils on Saturday, who remained just one point ahead of Boston and Tampa Bay in the race for the East's seventh playoff spot.

After two scoreless periods, Brad Lauer broke the deadlock just 28 seconds into the third, taking a pass from Mario Lemieux and beating the Devils' goaltender, Martin Brodeur.

Lightning 2, Panthers 1 In Miami, Daren Puppa made 26 saves and Rob Zamuner and Igor Ulanov scored early in the first period to lead the Tampa Bay Lightning over the reeling Florida Panthers.

Ray Sheppard scored the only goal for the Panthers, who have lost four in a row and have won only three times in their last 16 games.

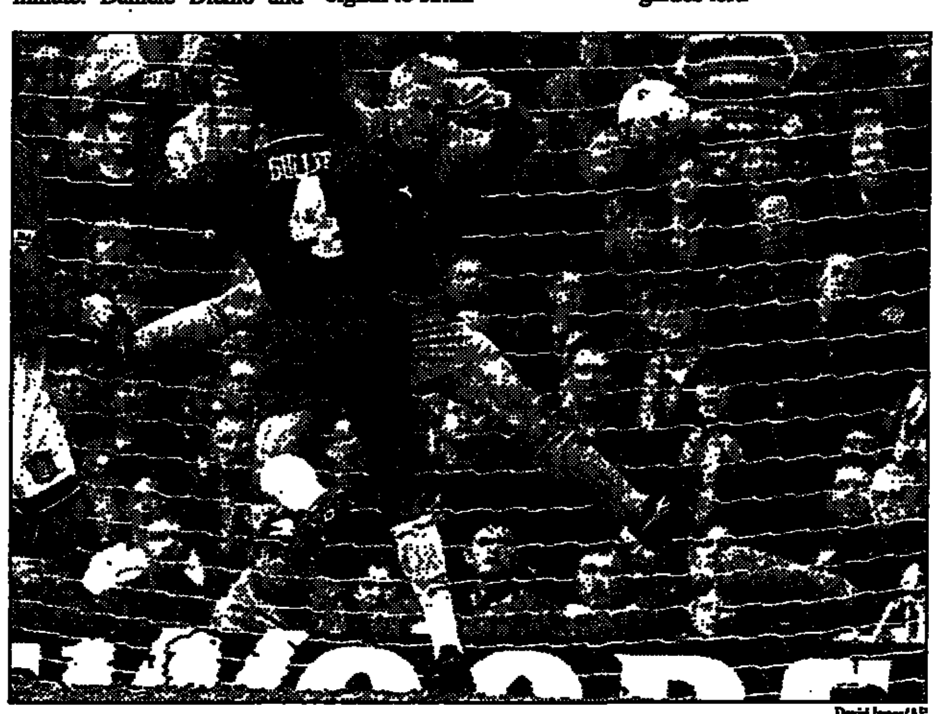
Canadiens 3, Senators 1 In Ottawa, Martin Rucinsky broke a tie at 3:44 of the second period and Jocelyn Thibault made 34 saves to power the surging Montreal Canadiens over the Senators.

Lyle Odelein scored a shorthanded goal in the first period and Mark Recchi added a power-play goal in the second for Montreal.

Whalers 3, Islanders 1 In Hartford, Andrei Nikolishin and Brendan Shanahan scored in the final three minutes to carry the Hartford Whalers over the New York Islanders.

Nikolishin scored off a scramble in front of the Islanders net with three minutes left to break a 1-1 tie and Shanahan added an insurance goal, beating Eric Fichaud on a slapshot with just 64 seconds remaining.

Maple Leafs 4, Oilers 3 In Edmonton, Tie Domi broke a second-period tie and Doug Gilmour added two goals as the Toronto Maple Leafs beat the Oilers. Todd Gill had a goal and an assist and Wendel Clark and Mats Sundin each two assists for Toronto, which moved past Calgary into sixth place in the West, one point behind Vancouver.



David Jones/AP

Ruud Gullit of Chelsea heading the ball past Manchester United's Peter Schmeichel.

Graf Crushes Rubin To Retain Lipton Title

By Robin Finn
New York Times Service

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida — Peerless on a cloudless day, Steffi Graf unveiled a brief but brutal display of power tennis before a capacity crowd to win the Lipton Championships, where the temperature underfoot reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees centigrade).

Graf's humbled challenger, sixth-seeded Chanda Rubin, no doubt felt the heat in more ways than one on Saturday, after absorbing a 6-1, 6-3 thrashing that took the 26-year-old German, the defending champion, a mere 54 minutes.

"I could sense that she was a bit tentative from the start — I think she felt she needed to produce some great shots," said Graf.

The victory brought Graf's collection of championships to 97 titles in 124 finals. Saturday she improved on her own formidable record by adding a fifth title at the event that is considered, after the Grand Slam quartet, to be the most prestigious, and difficult, on the tennis calendar. "It's pretty unique," Graf said, of her mastery at Lipton, attributing it in part to her familiarity with the area. She has maintained a residence in Boca Raton, Florida, for the past nine years.

Despite continuing problems with her back, which has a chronically painful bone spur at its base, she has won both of the WTA tour events she has played this year.

Saturday's outcome extended Rubin's final round futility streak to five losses in five finals. But her performance here, where her most significant victory was her quarterfinal upset of fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini, sent her ranking to a career-best seventh in the world.

Graf's game is "oppressive, and it forces you to go for too much," said Rubin after the match. "I came up quite a bit short today. I think her game presents a few more problems for me." Rubin referred specifically to Graf's low and lethal backhand slice and her powerful forehand.

■ Agassi Wins in 3 Games

Andre Agassi retained the Lipton men's title Sunday when Goran Ivanisevic retired in the first set of the final, Agence France-Presse reported. Agassi led 3-0 in games and 40-love when Ivanisevic quit with a shoulder injury.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Orlando	53	18	.746	—
New York	41	28	.594	11
Miami	37	34	.521	16
Washington	33	39	.458	20½
New Jersey	28	42	.400	24½
Boston	28	43	.394	25
Philadelphia	14	58	.194	39½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
y-Chicago	62	8	.886	—
Indiana	43	28	.606	19½
Cleveland	41	30	.577	21½
Atlanta	39	31	.557	23
Detroit	39	31	.557	23
Charlotte	35	35	.500	27
Milwaukee	21	50	.296	41½
Toronto	18	52	.257	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	52	18	.743	—
x-Utah	50	21	.704	2½
Houston	42	29	.592	10½
Denver	30	41	.423	22½
Minnesota	24	46	.343	28
Dallas	22	49	.310	30½
Vancouver	11	58	.159	40½
PACIFIC DIVISION				
x-Seattle	56	15	.789	—
x-L.A. Lakers	44	25	.638	11
Phoenix	36	34	.514	19½
Portland	35	35	.500	20½
Sacramento	31	38	.449	24
Golden State	31	41	.431	25½
L.A. Clippers	26	45	.366	30

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 30 30 35 31—126
Toronto 22 18 21 25— 86
O: O'Neal 8-12 8-11 24; Anderson 7-11 0-0 18. T: Miller 6-12 0-0 12; Stoudamire 7-17 0-0 15. Rebounds— Orlando 59 (Grant 9), Toronto 56 (Rogers 9). Assists— Orlando 37 (Hardaway 10), Toronto 21 (Stoudamire 5).

New Jersey 26 26 11 15— 78
New York 27 19 28 20— 94
N.J.: Gilliam 7-11 2-2 16; Bradley 7-13 2-2 16. N.Y.: Ewing 7-17 6-7 20; Harper 6-10 2-2 18. Rebounds— New Jersey 45 (Bradley, J.Williams 9), New York 50 (Mason, Ewing 10). Assists— New Jersey 21 (Childs 12), N.Y. 25 (Oakley 6).

Boston 34 18 22 27—101
Philadelphia 17 31 27 20— 95
B: Fox 5-14 10-12 21; Williams 12-18 7-10 31. P: Weatherspoon 9-12 2-2 20; Stackhouse 8-22 7-8 24. Rebounds— Boston 57 (Lister 15), Philadelphia 50 (Alston 8). Assists— Boston 23 (Wesley 9), Phil. 23 (Ruffin, Stackhouse 9).

Washington 22 19 28 24— 93
Miami 30 25 28 29—112
W: Howard 8-22 4-4 20; Eackles 6-12 4-4 18. M: Mourning 17-24 16-17 50; Hardaway 6-15 2-4 16. Rebounds— Washington 41 (Muresan 10), Miami 56 (Mourning 12). Assists— Washington 18 (Howard 6), Miami 24 (Hardaway 12).

L.A. Lakers 22 22 26 32—102
Atlanta 22 25 23 19— 89
L.A.: Campbell 10-17 1-2 21; Peeler 10-16 2-2 25. A: Laettner 9-19 4-4 22; Smith 8-17 2-3 20. Rebounds— Los Angeles 55 (Johnson 10), Atlanta 52 (Long 12). Assists— L.A. 22 (Johnson 9), Atlanta 14 (Smith 4).

Indiana 16 26 18 31— 91
Minnesota 32 17 21 23— 93
I: Smits 9-16 0-0 18; Miller 7-15 8-8 27. M: Gugliotta 11-18 0-0 23; Rider 7-23 5-7 19. Rebounds— Indiana 55 (D.Davis 18), Minnesota 47 (Gugliotta 8). Assists— Indiana 25 (Jackson 7), Minnesota 26 (Porter 11).

San Antonio 35 26 34 24—119
Dallas 30 28 20 26—104
S.A.: Robinson 13-22 4-4 31; Del Negro 7-15 5-6 20. D: McCloud 11-22 1-1 30; Jones 7-12 2-2 17. Rebounds— San Antonio 62 (Robinson 15), Dallas 44 (Kidd 10). Assists— San Antonio 25 (Johnson 11). Dallas 28 (Kidd 9).

Vancouver 24 27 22 18— 91
Utah 35 21 24 25—105
V: Edwards 9-14 6-6 26; Scott 6-10 5-6 17. U: Benoit 8-10 0-0 18; Malone 9-18 3-5 21. Rebounds— Vancouver 40 (Reeves 7), Utah 58 (Malone 14). Assists— Vancouver 23 (Murdock 6), Utah 24 (Stockton 10).

Milwaukee 15 23 20 27— 85
Phoenix 29 27 30 22—108
M: Douglas 5-10 1-1 11; Keys 6-14 2-2 17. P: Barkley 8-13 6-6 22; Finley 7-12 0-0 16. Rebounds— Milwaukee 48 (Benjamin 12), Phoenix 55 (Green 9). Assists— Milwaukee 27 (Mayberry 7), Phoenix 31 (Johnson 15).

Charlotte 27 23 29 14 8—101
Sacramento 28 21 26 18 14—107
C: Johnson 7-23 7-10 21; Anderson 10-20 3-3 24; Curry 9-17 0-0 22. S: Causwell 8-10 2-3 18; Richmond 7-16 5-6 21. Rebounds— Charlotte 53 (Parish 13), Sacramento 60 (Grant 10). Assists— Charlotte 17 (Anderson 5), Sacramento 21 (Edney 6).

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

L.A. Clippers 16 26 19 24— 85
Chicago 28 34 24 20—106
L.A.: Vaught 7-11 0-0 14; Dehere 4-13 2-2 12. C: Pippen 8-16 3-4 22; Jordan 6-15 9-10 21. Rebounds— Los Angeles 49 (Vaught, Williams 10), Chicago 53 (Kukoc, Jordan 9). Assists— L.A. 19 (Dehere 6), Chicago 19 (Jordan 6).

Miami 18 32 18 27— 95
Detroit 27 21 18 19— 85
M: Mourning 10-16 6-7 26; Gatling 10-16 1-3 21. D: Houston 9-20 2-2 22; Dumars 5-12 3-4 15. Rebounds— Miami 50 (Mourning 11), Detroit 53 (Thorpe 15). Assists— Miami 26 (Hardaway 16), Detroit 15 (Hill, Houston 6).

Philadelphia 26 27 26 26—105
Washington 32 18 28 29—107
P: Weatherspoon 10-14 3-3 23; Stackhouse 10-18 9-10 29; Maxwell 9-21 3-5 23. W: Howard 15-24 2-2 32; Muresan 8-12 5-6 21. Rebounds— Philadelphia 42 (Weatherspoon 8), Washington 46 (Howard 9). Assists— Philadelphia 24 (Stackhouse, Maxwell 8), Washington 27 (Howard, B.Price 9).

Portland 28 28 25 28—109
Houston 30 23 21 20— 94
P: C.Robinson 9-17 6-7 25; McKie 7-10 4-5 19. H: Horry 9-16 0-0 23; Bryant 10-17 2-4 22. Rebounds— Portland 50 (C.Robinson 10), Houston 43 (Horry 7). Assists— Portland 37 (Strickland 20), Houston 31 (Recasner 10).

Milwaukee 20 15 26 24— 85
Denver 26 26 26 20— 98
M: Robinson 10-22 0-0 21; Baker 9-25 1-5 19. D: Stith 7-11 4-4 20; MacLean 8-17 2-2 18. Rebounds— Milwaukee 59 (Baker 10), Denver 51 (Mutombo 12). Assists— Milwaukee 20 (Robinson 7), Denver 25 (Rose 11).

Utah 24 23 23 28— 98
Seattle 25 24 23 28—100
U: Malone 9-20 6-8 24; Stockton 9-12 3-4 23. S: Schrempf 4-10 7-9 18; Perkins 7-12 4-4 22. Rebounds— Utah 40 (Keefe 10), Seattle 46 (Johnson 10). Assists— Utah 27 (Stockton 12), Seattle 26 (Payton 10).

Cleveland 28 17 22 23— 90
Golden State 11 15 20 18— 64
C: Brandon 7-13 6-6 20; Phills 7-10 1-3 16. G.S.: Kersey 5-8 1-1 11; Smith 3-12 3-3 9. Rebounds— Cleveland 45 (Ferry, Hill 6), Golden State 44 (Willis 10). Assists— Cleveland 27 (Brandon 7), Golden State 16 (Armstrong, Sprewell, Donyell Marshall 4).

MAJOR COLLEGE SCORES

NCAA TOURNAMENT
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS
Syracuse 77, Mississippi State 69
Kentucky 81, Massachusetts 74

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	39	22	13	91	254	193
N.Y. Rangers	38	21	14	90	252	209
Florida	38	28	9	85	240	216
Washington	36	29	10	82	214	188
New Jersey	34	29	12	80	198	181
Tampa Bay	34	29	11	79	219	230
N.Y. Islanders	20	46	8	48	206	289
NORTHEAST DIVISION						
Pittsburgh	46	25	4	96	339	257
Montreal	39	29	8	86	248	226
Boston	35	30	9	79	255	248
Hartford	31	34	9	71	219	235
Buffalo	28	39	7	63	219	236
Ottawa	15	56	4	34	170	270

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Detroit	57	12	5	119	291	163
x-Chicago	37	26	12	86	249	199
St. Louis	31	30	14	76	204	222
Toronto	31	34	12	74	229	237
Winnipeg	32	38	5	69	253	271
Dallas	24	37	13	61	207	250
PACIFIC DIVISION						
y-Colorado	43	23	10	96	300	222
Vancouver	30	32	15	75	264	264
Calgary	31	33	11	73	221	218
Edmonton	29	39	8	66	223	283
Anaheim	29	38	7	65	207	228
Los Angeles	22	38	17	61	238	285
San Jose	18	50	7	43	233	325

y-clinched division title
x-clinched playoff spot

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 6, Buffalo 5, OT
Washington 5, Ottawa 0
Los Angeles 4, Calgary 3
Edmonton 3, Winnipeg 2
Vancouver 4, Chicago 2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Hartford 3, N.Y. Islanders 1
Pittsburgh 2, New Jersey 1
Montreal 3, Ottawa 1
Tampa Bay 2, Florida 1
Toronto 4, Edmonton 3

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION RESULTS

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Chicago White Sox 9, Montreal 5
Philadelphia 10, Pittsburgh 1
Kansas City 3, Florida 0
Boston 9, Baltimore 8
Minnesota 6, Colorado 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 4, 10 innings
Detroit 7, Cincinnati 4
N.Y. Yankees 7, N.Y. Mets 3
Atlanta 5, Cleveland 4
Texas 5, Houston 0
Seattle 6, Toronto 5
Los Angeles 6, California 2
San Francisco 6, Oakland 5
San Diego 5, San Diego St. 0

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Florida 5, Charlotte Knights 0
Detroit 4, Montreal 2
Atlanta 8, Boston 0
N.Y. Mets 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 8, Pittsburgh 6
Baltimore 11, Philadelphia 7
Chicago Cubs 4, Texas 3
St. Louis 8, Houston 5
Colorado 4, Minnesota 3
San Diego 9, Toronto 5
Oakland 8, San Francisco 7
Cincinnati 2, Kansas City 2, tie, 10 innings
Milwaukee 5, Las Vegas (AAA) 2
California 9, Los Angeles 6

JAPANESE LEAGUES

CENTRAL LEAGUE	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Chunichi	0	0	0	.000	—
Hanshin	0	0	0	.000	—
Hiroshima	0	0	0	.000	—
Yakult	0	0	0	.000	—
Yokohama	0	0	0	.000	—
Yomiuri	0	0	0	.000	—
PACIFIC LEAGUE					
Kintetsu	2	0	0	1.000	—
Orix	1	0	0	1.000	½
Daiei	1	1	0	.500	1
Lotte	1	1	0	.500	1
Nippon Ham	0	1	0	.000	1½
Seibu	0	2	0	.000	2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Lotte 6, Daiei 4
Kintetsu 4, Seibu 0

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Kintetsu 2, Seibu 0
Daiei 5, Lotte 2
Orix 1, Nippon Ham 0

SOCCER

ITALIAN FIRST DIVISION
Atalanta 1, Torino 0
Bari 1, Roma 2
Inter 1, Fiorentina 2
Lazio 3, Vicenza 0
Napoli 0, Cagliari 0
Padova 1, Cremonese 2
Piacenza 0, Milan 2
Juventus 1, Parma 0
STANDINGS: Milan 59, Juventus 51, Fiorentina 50, Inter 44, Parma 43, Lazio 42, Roma 42, Vicenza 38, Sampdoria 35, Udinese 34, Atalanta 33, Cagliari 33, Napoli 32, Piacenza 28, Cremonese 25, Torino 25, Bari 22, Padova 21.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION
Feyenoord Rotterdam 2, NEC Nijmegen 1
Utrecht 0, Groningen 1
RKC Waalwijk 5, De Graafschap Doetin. 0
STANDINGS: Ajax Amsterdam 69, PSV Eindhoven 64, Feyenoord Rotterdam 50, NAC Breda 46, Sparta Rotterdam 45, Roda JC Kerkrade 44, Vitesse Arnhem 43, Heerenveen 43, Twente Enschede 42, Groningen 40, RKC Waalwijk 38, Willem II Tilburg 36, Fortuna Sittard 28, De Graafschap Doetinchem 23, Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 22, Volendam 21, NEC Nijmegen 19, Utrecht 17.

SPANISH FIRST DIVISION
Salamanca 1, Compostela 0
Real Sociedad 1, Real Betis 1
Racing Santander 0, Oviedo 0
Sporting Gijon 3, Rayo Vallecano 1
Sevilla 1, Zaragoza 1
Espanyol 3, Merida 0
Celta 1, Valladolid 1

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA
Werder Bremen 2, Bayer Leverkusen 1
Schalke 3, Freiburg 0
Rostock 1, Karlsruhe 1
VfB Stuttgart 1, St. Pauli 1
Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Borussia Moench. 2
Bayern Munich 1, Borussia Dortmund 0
Hamburg 0, Uerdingen 0
Cologne 0, Kaiserslautern 1
STANDINGS: Bayern Munich 53, Borussia Dortmund 51, Borussia Moenchengladbach 41, VfB Stuttgart 37, Schalke 37, Hamburg 34, Freiburg 33, Bayer Leverkusen 31, Hansa Rostock 30, Karlsruhe 30, Werder Bremen 30, 1860 Munich 29, St. Pauli 26, Eintracht Frankfurt 26, Fortuna Duesseldorf 25, Cologne 24, Kaiserslautern 24, Uerdingen 17.

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION
Paris-SG 2, Metz 3
Lille 0, Auxerre 4
Monaco 1, Cannes 0
Gueugnon 0, Montpellier 2
Saint-Etienne 2, Strasbourg 0
Nice 0, Rennes 0
Bastia 0, Lyon 0
STANDINGS: Auxerre 61, Paris St Germain 60, Metz 58, Monaco 55, Lens 55, Montpellier 51, Rennes 48, Strasbourg 47, Guingamp 47, Nantes 47, Lyon 42, Bastia 42, Le Havre 42, Cannes 37, Bordeaux 36, Nice 36, St Etienne 32, Lille 30, Gueugnon 27, Martigues 22.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Blackburn 0, Everton 3
Bolton 1, Manchester City 1
Leeds 0, Middlesbrough 1
Queens Park Rangers 3, Southampton 0
Tottenham 3, Coventry 1
Wimbledon 1, Nottingham Forest 0
STANDINGS: Manchester United 67, Newcastle 64, Liverpool 59, Aston Villa 56, Arsenal 54, Tottenham 54, Everton 51, Blackburn 48, Nottingham Forest 47, Chelsea 45, West Ham 45, Leeds 39, Middlesbrough 39, Sheffield Wednesday 35, Wimbledon 32, Manchester City 31, Southampton 28, Queen's Park Rangers 27, Coventry 27, Bolton 26.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION
Falkirk 0, Hearts 2
Hibernian 1, Kilmarnock 1
Partick 0, Motherwell 2
Raith 2, Rangers 4

ENGLISH F.A. CUP
SEMIFINAL
Chelsea 1, Manchester United 2

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING
CARIBBEAN ZONE, FIRST ROUND
Guyana 1, Grenada 2

TENNIS

LIPTON CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLA.
MEN'S SEMIFINALS
Andre Agassi (3), U.S., def. Arnaud Boetsch (15), France, 6-4, 6-3; Goran Ivanisevic (6), Croatia, def. Pete Sampras (2), U.S., 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.
WOMEN'S FINAL
Steffi Graf (1), Germany, def. Chanda Rubin (6), U.S., 6-1, 6-3.

CASABLANCA OPEN
QUARTERFINALS
Alberto Berasategui (5), Spain, def. Jiri Novak (4), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4; Gilbert Schaller (1), Austria, def. Richard Fromberg, Australia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; Tomas Carbonell, Spain, def. Magnus Norman, Sweden, 6-3, 6-2; Andrei Chesnokov, Russia, def. Carlos Moya, Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
SEMIFINALS
Schaller def. Berasategui 7-6 (10-8), 7-5; Carbonell def. Chesnokov 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.
FINAL
Carbonell def. Schaller 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

GOLF

BANGKOK OPEN

Leading final scores Sunday of the Singha Thai Prasit Bangkok Open on the 7,107-yard, par-72 Royal Game Golf and Sports Club course:

T. Srirot, Thailand	67-71-68-68—274
S. Scahill, N. Zealand	71-67-68-69—275
T. Wiratchant, Thail.	66-71-69-72—278
Gerry Norquist, U.S.	72-68-70-68—278
P. Senapron, Thail.	68-73-71-67—279
W. Ter-chang, Taiwan	68-70-73-69—280
Jeff Wagner, Australia	68-70-71-71—280
R. Raksamjit, Thail.	68-69-71-73—281
C. Liang-hsi, Taiwan	71-71-73-66—281
T. Soengsui, Thailand	71-70-71-69—281

MADEIRA OPEN

Leading final scores Sunday of the Madeira Island Open on the 6,606-yard, par-72 Madeira Golf Course in Funchal, Madeira:

J. Sandelin, Sweden	72-67-71-69—279
Paul Affleck, Wales	72-69-73-66—280
David Carter, England	71-75-68-67—281
Des Smyth, Ireland	73-71-68-69—281
P. Mitchell, England	72-66-73-70—281
D. J Russell, England	73-69-69-70—281
D. Chopra, Sweden	69-66-70-76—281
Iain Pyman, England	71-74-71-66—282
Carl Suneson, Spain	71-70-70-71—282
Diego Borrego, Spain	74-67-70-71—282

CRICKET

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL
WEST INDIES VS. NEW ZEALAND
IN PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD
West Indies innings: 238-7 (50 overs)
New Zealand innings: 239-6 (49.5 overs)
Result: New Zealand won 4 wickets with 1 ball to spare.

THIRD ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL
WEST INDIES VS. NEW ZEALAND
IN PORT-OF-SPAIN
New Zealand innings: 219-8 (50 overs)
West Indies innings: 225-3 (45.4 overs)
Result: West Indies won by 7 wickets to take a 2-1 lead in the 5-match series.

AUTO RACING

BRAZILIAN GRAND PRIX

Leading official results from Sao Paulo: 1, Damon Hill, England, Williams-Renault, 1 hour 49 mins 52.976 secs; 2, Jean Alesi, France, Benetton-Renault, 17.982 secs behind; 3, Michael Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari, one lap; 4, Mika Hakkinen, Finland, McLaren-Mercedes, one lap; 5, Mika Salo, Finland, Tyrrell-Yamaha, one lap; 6, Olivier Panis, France, Ligier-Mugen, Honda, one lap; 7, Eddie Irvine, Ireland, Ferrari one lap; 8, Pedro Paulo Diniz, Brazil, Ligier-Mugen, Honda, two laps; 9, Ukyo Katayama, Japan, Tyrrell-Yamaha, two laps; 10, Pedro Lamy, Portugal, Minardi-Ford V8, three laps.

World drivers' championship standings (after two rounds): 1, Damon Hill 20 points; 2, Jacques Villeneuve, 6; 2, (equal) Jean Alesi 6; 4, Mika Hakkinen 5; 5, Eddie Irvine 4; 5, (equal) Michael Schumacher 4; 7, Gerhard Berger 3; 7, (equal) Mika Salo 3; 9, Olivier Panis 1.

RUGBY

SUPER 12 RUGBY UNION
Otago 15, Wellington 44
Waikato 44, Western Province 17

ENGLISH SUPER LEAGUE
Halifax Blue Sox 22, London Broncos 24
Oldham Bears 16, Wigan 56
Leeds 18, Warrington 22
Workington 0, St Helens 62

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE—Optioned Cesar Devarez, catcher, to Rochester, IL.

BOSTON—Put Vaughn Eshelman, pitcher, on 15-day disabled list, and Stan Belinda, pitcher, on 15-day disabled list, retroactive to March 19. Bought contracts of Esteban Beltre, infielder; Milt Cuyler, outfielder; and Alex Delgado, catcher, from Pawtucket, IL. Optioned Joe Hudson, pitcher, to Pawtucket. Sent Eric Gunderson, pitcher, outright to Pawtucket, and Bryan Eversgerd, pitcher, outright to Trenton, EL. Sent Phil Clark, infielder, Alex Cole, outfielder, and Rich Garces, pitcher, to their minor-league camp.

CHICAGO—Bought contract of Joe Magrane, pitcher, from Nashville, AA.

DETROIT—Put Joe Boever, pitcher, on waivers for purpose of giving him his unconditional release. Assigned Bob Scanlan, pitcher, to Lakeland, FSL.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, MARCH 31:

AUTO RACING Interlagos, Brazil — Brazilian Grand Prix.
BASEBALL New York — American major league season opening day.
SOCCER various sites — CONCACAF, World Cup Qualifying, Caribbean Zone, first round, first leg: Aruba vs. Dominican Republic, Antigua vs. Dominica; second round, first leg: Surinam vs. Jamaica.

MONDAY, APRIL 1:

CRICKET Singapore — Singer Cup, Pakistan vs. Sri Lanka, one-day international.
BASKETBALL East Rutherford, New Jersey — U.S. college championship game.
TENNIS Hilton Head, South Carolina — Family Circle Cup, through April 7; San Juan, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rican Open, through April 7.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2:

RUGBY various sites — Super 12, Auckland vs. Otago; New South Wales vs. Natal.
SOCCER Lima, Peru — CONMEBOL, Copa Libertadores, first round, Group 2, Sporting Cristal vs. Defensor; Santa Ana, Colombia — soccer, CONCACAF, Cup Winners Cup, semifinals, UAG vs. Morathon, Firpo vs. Jong Colombia: UEFA Cup, Semifinals, First Leg: Slavia Prague vs. Girondins Bordeaux, Bayern Munich vs. Barcelona.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3:

CRICKET Guyana — one-day international, West Indies vs. New Zealand; Singapore — Singer Cup, India vs. Sri Lanka, one-day international.
RUGBY various sites — Super 12, Waikato vs. ACT, Queensland vs. Western Province, Canterbury vs. Northern Transvaal.
SOCCER European Champions Cup, Semifinals, First Leg: Ajax vs. Panathinaikos, Juventus vs. Nantes; Copa Libertadores, First Round, Group 1: Espoli vs. Barcelona, Cerro Porteno vs. Olimpia; Group 3: America vs. Junior, Guabira vs. San Jose; Group 4: Botafogo vs. Corinthians, Universidad Catolica vs. Universidad Chile; Group 5: Caracas FC vs. Minerven, River Plate vs. San Lorenzo.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4:

GOLF Miki, Japan — Descente Classic, through April 7; Marietta, Georgia — BellSouth Classic, through April 7; Scottsdale, Arizona — Senior Tour, The Tradition, through April 7.
SOCCER Santa Ana, California — CONCACAF, Cup Winners Cup, final; European Cup Winners Cup, Semifinals, First Leg: Deportivo vs. Paris St. Germain, Feyenoord vs. Rapid Vienna.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5:

CRICKET Singapore — Singer Cup, India vs. Pakistan, one-day international.
BASEBALL Tokyo — Japan MLB, Central League opening day.
TENNIS various sites — Davis Cup, World Group, second round: India vs. Sweden, Italy vs. South Africa, Germany vs. France, Czech Republic vs. United States; Euro-African Zone, Group One, second round: Morocco vs. Zimbabwe, Finland vs. Romania, Ukraine vs. Croatia, Israel vs. Spain; Asia-Oceania Zone Group One, 2d round: Korea vs. New Zealand, Japan vs. Australia; playoff: Indonesia vs. China, Taiwan vs. Philippines, through April 7; Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two, second round: Thailand vs. Hong Kong, Pakistan or Saudi Arabia vs. Bahrain or Uzbekistan; playoff: Iran vs. Sri Lanka, Pakistan or Saudi Arabia vs. Bahrain or Uzbekistan.

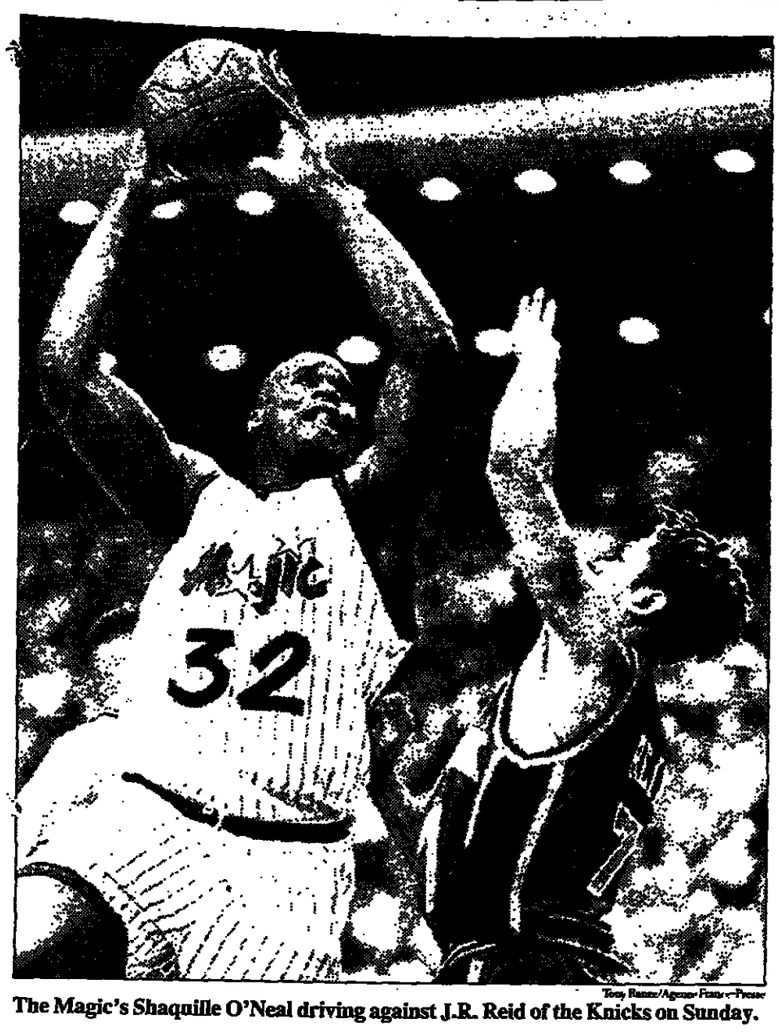
SATURDAY, APRIL 6:

SOCCER San Jose, California — opening game of U.S. Major League Soccer inaugural season, San Jose Clash vs. Washington DC United.
RUGBY Wellington, New Zealand — Super 12, Wellington vs. Natal.
CRICKET St. Vincent — one-day international, West Indies vs. New Zealand.
OLYMPICS Athens, Greece — ceremonies marking 100th anniversary of first modern Games.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7:

AUTO RACING Buenos Aires, Argentina — Argentine Grand Prix.
RUGBY Auckland, New Zealand — Super 12, Auckland vs. Northern Transvaal.
CYCLING Belgium — World Cup, Tour of Flanders Classic.
SOCCER St. George's, Grenada — CONCACAF, World Cup qualifying, Caribbean Zone, first round, 2d leg, Grenada vs. Guyana; various sites — CONMEBOL, Copa Libertadores, first round, Group 2, Universitario vs. Sporting Cristal, Penarol vs. Defensor.

SPORTS



Tony Ranze/Agence France-Presse

The Magic's Shaquille O'Neal driving against J.R. Reid of the Knicks on Sunday.

O'Neal and Magic Mystify Knicks To Win Atlantic Division Crown

The Associated Press

The Orlando Magic claimed a second straight Atlantic Division title Sunday, beating the New York Knicks, 98-79, behind a 32-point performance by Shaquille O'Neal.

The defending Eastern Conference champions tied the NBA record for fewest turnovers in a game, three, while improving to 34-1 at Orlando Arena, where they won 40 consecutive regular-season games before losing to the Los Angeles Lakers last week.

Horace Grant scored 23 points and Anfernee Hardaway 20 for Orlando. O'Neal went 11-for-21 from the field and 10-for-13 from the foul line to win his personal matchup with New York's Patrick Ewing, who had 30 points and 11 rebounds.

NBA Roundup

Ewing made 13 of 25 shots, but didn't get much offensive support from his teammates. While Anthony Mason had 14 points and Charles Oakley 12, John Starks had just 7points and Derek Harper 6.

The Magic led by 16 before settling for a 52-43 halftime advantage. The Knicks later trimmed their deficit to four before O'Neal and Grant scored all the points in a 13-0 spurt that put Orlando up by 70-53.

Oakley hit a jumper to break a four-minute drought by the Knicks, but New York continued to lose ground. The Knicks trailed, 81-65, after three quarters and by more than 20 during most of the final period.

In games Saturday, Reuters reported:

SuperSonics 100, Jazz 98 Sam Perkins nailed an off-balance, fade-away three-point shot with 16 seconds left in the game as the Seattle SuperSonics won a seesaw battle with the Utah Jazz for their sixth consecutive victory.

Utah had a chance to win the game in the closing seconds, but a three-point attempt by Chris Morris bounced off the rim as time expired.

Bulls 106, Clippers 85 In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 12 of his 22 points in the first quarter as the Bulls built an early double-digit lead and rolled to a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Michael Jordan added 21 points for Chicago, which extended its NBA-record home winning streak to 43 games.

Trailblazers 109, Rockets 94 In Houston, Clifford Robinson had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Rod Strickland dished out 20 assists as the surging Portland Trailblazers handed the injury-riddled Houston Rockets their seventh-straight defeat.

Cavaliers 90, Warriors 64 In Oakland, Terrell Brandon scored 20 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers held the Golden State Warriors to the lowest point total in the history of their franchise. The Warriors scored just 26 points in the first half.

Heat 95, Pistons 85 In Detroit, Alonzo Mourning scored 26 points and Voshon Lenard added 10 in the final five minutes as the Miami Heat rallied for a victory over the Pistons. Chris Gatling added 21 points for the Heat, which trailed by 77-75 with 7:06 remaining but used a 12-2 run to open an eight-point advantage with 2:41 to go.

Nuggets 98, Bucks 85 In Denver, Bryant Stith scored 20 points and Don MacLean added 18 to lead the Nuggets over the Milwaukee Bucks. Denver pulled within two games of idle Sacramento in the race for the final playoff spot in the West. Glenn Robinson scored 21 points and Vin Baker added 19 for the Bucks, who extended their franchise-record losing streak to 15 games.

Bullets 107, 76ers 105 In Landover, Maryland, Tim Legler's driving lay-up with 4.2 seconds left gave Washington a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers. Juwan Howard matched his season high with 32 points and added nine assists and nine rebounds for the Bullets, who remained 4½ games behind Miami for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. Jerry Stackhouse had 29 points and eight assists for the 76ers.

From Bat to Verse: The Poetry of Baseball

More Than a Century After Casey Struck Out, Writers Are Still Hacking Away

By Tim Wiles
New York Times Service

ON JUNE 3, 1888, "Casey at the Bat" first appeared in the pages of The San Francisco Examiner. Since that time, it has become one of America's best-known and best-loved poems.

Even though Mighty Casey's failure at the plate is initially tragic and surprising, it is, perhaps, a comforting metaphor for all of us in the Mudville masses.

As a baseball ballad, with its keen sense of the sport's ever-building drama, Ernest Lawrence Thayer's "Casey at the Bat" is perfection. But in another sense, it has plenty of company, for it is just one of tens of thousands of baseball poems.

Some of these efforts are pure doggerel, but others are well-crafted verse from some of the United States' best poets — Robert Francis, Marianne Moore, May Swenson and Carl Sandburg. It is one more reminder, as a new season begins, that baseball and poetry have long been intertwined.

Indeed, scholars of baseball's origins point to a poem from an English children's book as the first mention of baseball in print. The poem, entitled "Base-Ball," appeared in "A Little Pretty Pocket Book," in 1744:

The ball once struck off
Away flies the Boy
To the next destin'd Post
And then Home with Joy.

Baseball has consistently intrigued good writers.And for every Hall-of-Fame poet who has stepped up to the plate — every Sandburg and Moore and Walt Whitman and Robert Frost — there has been an aspiring wordsmith who has swung away and whiffed. Some lesser-knowns, however, have finally connected.

Take, for example, the 83-page poem written in 1961 by Weldon Myers, called "Twelve Perfect Innings," and subtitled a "A Pretty Good Game." Myers wrote a pitch-by-pitch account, in verse, of the May 26, 1959, evening when Harvey Haddix of the Pittsburgh Pirates' pitched a perfect game against the Milwaukee Braves for 12 innings, only to lose on Joe Adcock's 13th-inning home run. In his short introduction, Myers says he felt an obligation "to bring along some element of perfection in the telling" of Haddix's story.

Myers did, and then, like many others, was never heard from again. The established poets, however, don't fade from view. Their poems mirror baseball's cadences, almost perfectly.

"Some baseball is the fate of us all," Frost once wrote, and he led students in hearty games of softball. In his poem "Birches," he rhapsodizes about "Some boy too far from town to learn baseball."

Another of baseball's poetic traditions is the newspaper poem, often composed by sportswriters who fancy themselves heavier-hitting literary men. Perhaps the most famous of these is an eight-liner called "Baseball's Sad Lexicon," written by Franklin P. Adams of The New York Evening Mail in 1910.

These are the saddest of possible words,
Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance.
Trio of Bear Cubs and fleeter than birds,
Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance.
Ruthlessly pricking our gonfalon bubble,
Making a Giant hit into a double,
Words that are weighty with nothing but trouble
Tinker-to-Evers-to-Chance.

Never mind that some baseball historians have observed that Tinker, Evers and Chance did not dazzle as a double-play combination. But after being forever linked by Adams's poem, the three men were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame together in 1946.

Baseball poetry is a growth industry, at a time when many commentators are arguing that baseballis in decline. "Spitball" and "The Elysian Fields Quarterly" are two of the more notable journals for baseball poets. Michael Schacht's "Fan" carries poetry and art.

And then there are all the unpublished poems. Baseball fans mail their work to the Hall of Fame on subjects as diverse as the life and death of Mickey Mantle, the rise and fall of Pete Rose and Shoeless Joe Jackson, the nostalgic joy of baseball cards, the romantic joys of opening day, or the time when they, like Casey, struck out with the game on the line.

Their tributes and celebrations can be touching and clever. One woman called her collection of poems about the Cincinnati Reds of the early 1970s, "From Bat to Verse."

Many baseball utterances are folk poetry, like "Hit 'em where they ain't," and "I call 'em as I see 'em." The songwriter Paul Simon's line, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio, our nation turns its lonely eyes to you" is evocative poetry. In J.D. Salinger's novel, "The Catcher in the Rye," the main character, Holden Caulfield, spoke an elegy for his dead brother, Allie, who had written poems in green ink all over his baseball mitt because he got lonely sometimes when standing in the outfield.

A. Bartlett Giamatti, later U.S. baseball's commissioner, wrote in an essay in 1977: "It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoons and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone."

There are three poets who were also players. The first was Edward Benninghaus Kenna, who pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1902. He preferred poetry to baseball and later published a book, "Lyrics of the Hills." Next was David Malarcher, who played 20 years for the Chicago American Giants in the Negro Leagues.

Ed Charlesplayed eight years in the majors, with the Mets and the A's. He platooned at third base for the Mets' 1969 World Series champions. He once wrote:

Perform we must, both day and night
Seeking victory, with all our might
Seeking a place, with other sport greats
In the Hall of Fame, where ability rates.

In the Hall of Fame, ability does rate. And it writes. Ed Charles found his way into the poetry files at the Hall's library.

From academics to ballplayers, from fans to folksingers, from novelists to newspaper writers, and from announcers to "anonymous," baseball poetry springs eternal. Now it's time for 1996 to spin its verses.

•Tim Wiles is the Public Services Librarian at the Baseball Hall of Fame Library in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The Crack of a Bat

By Dick Roraback

Away on this side of the ocean
When the chestnuts are hinting of green
And the first of the café commandos
Are moving outside for a *fine*
And the sound of spring beats a bolero
As Paree sheds her coat and her hat
The sound that is missed more than any
Is the sound of the crack of a bat.

There's an animal kind of a feeling
There's a stirring down at Vincennes Zoo
And the kid down the hall's getting restless
Taking stairs like a young kangaroo
Now the dandy is walking his poodle
And the concierge sunning her cat
But the heart's with the Cubs and the Tigers
And the sound of the crack of a bat.

In the park on the corner run schoolboys
With a couple of cartons for props
Kicking goals á la Fontaine or Kopa
While a little guy chickies for cops
"Goal for us," "No it's not," "You're a liar,"
Then the classical shrieks of a spat
But it's not like a rhubarb at home plate
Or the sound of the crack of a bat.

Here the stadia thrill to the scrumdowns
And the soccer fans flock to the games
And the chic punt the nags out at Longchamp
Where the women are *dames* and not dames
But it's different at Forbes and at Griffith
The homes of the Buc and the Nat
Where the hotdog and peanut share laurels
With the sound of the crack of a bat.

No, a Yank can't describe to a Frenchman
The rasp of an umpire's call
The continuing charms of statistics
Changing hist'ry with each strike and ball
Nor the self-conscious jog of the slugger
Rounding third with the tip of his hat
Nor the half-smothered grace of a hook slide
Nor the sound of the crack of a bat.

Now, the golfer is buffing his niblick
And the tennis buff's tightening his strings
And the fisherman's flexing his flyrod
Like a thousand and one other springs
Oh, the sports on both sides of the ocean
Have a great deal in common, at that
But the thing that's not *here*
At this time of the year
Is the sound of the crack of a bat.

Dick Roraback is a former Sports Editor of the Herald Tribune. His springtime elegy has appeared in this space since the 1960s.

Sandelin Wins Madeira Open

Reuters

FUNCHAL, Madeira — Jarmo Sandelin of Sweden conquered a tough pin placement on the final green Sunday to win the Madeira Open.

Sandelin, five shots behind at the start of the day, shot a closing 69 to win by one stroke over Paul Affleck of Wales. Sandelin's four-round total of 279 was nine strokes under par.

The Swede two-putted from 15 feet (4.5 meters) at the wickedly sloping 18th green. Several players were furious after needing three, four and even five putts to finish the final hole.

Wolverines Win NCAA Hockey Championship

N.Y. Times News Service

CINCINNATI — The University of Michigan's ice-hockey team tallied after 3 minutes and 35 seconds of overtime when Brendan Morrison put a chip shot into the Colorado College net to clinch the NCAA championship, 3-2, before a crowd of 13,330 at Riverfront Coliseum.

Ryan Bach, the Colorado goalkeeper, had been moved out of position by a fake and could not get back in time to snuff Morrison's shot.

Red Berenson, Michigan's coach, at last won the prize that had eluded him for so long. Berenson, a standout player in the National Hockey League for Montreal, the New York Rangers, St. Louis, and Detroit, has been head coach at Michigan for the past 12 years.

It was the sixth time Michigan had qualified for the NCAA tournament and the Wolverines' eighth championship, but the team's first since 1964. No other NCAA team has won more hockey championships.

So smothering were the defenses that there were only eight shots on goal in the first period. Only one hit paydirt, Bill Muckalt's wrist shot that whizzed past Bach at 11:33. The Tigers went ahead, 2-1, in the second period on goals by Peter Geronazzo and Colin Schmidt. Michigan tied the game in the third period on a power-play goal by Mike Legg.

AIR RACE OF THE AMERICAS

March 31st - April 21st 96

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Raymond T-FAL

Competitors fly today, a 2230 NM leg from Caldwell, N.J., to Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.

Essex County Airport, N.J. March 31st.

Today is the departure of the Air Race of the Americas and the first leg from Caldwell, N.J. to Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, French Caribbean. The 2230 NM distance will be flown in about 10 hours by the ten participating crews. The pilots are an exuberant mix of ages, genders and nationalities, all sharing one common denominator: the love for flying. The youngest aviator is Peter Alexander Bedell, 25, of Bethesda, M.D., one of the "Canuk" team. The oldest pilot is Daphne Schiff, 71, of Canada, who is competing together with Adele Fogle, 62, in their PA 31 "Silver Wings".

The youngest woman is Merce Marti Inglada, 27, of Barcelona, Spain, flying a Mooney 231 with child protection advocate Karole Jensen, 50, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., the founder and director of "Wings for Children", a non profit association for abused children.

Federico Bauer, 45, and Anton Schedlbauer, 55, from Guatemala, will pilot a Piper Aerostar under the name of "Maya". Bauer, an industrial engineer, has already flown air races. Munich-born Schedlbauer is racing for the first time.

But the heroes of this first leg will undoubtedly be "Karukera": from Pointe-à-Pitre come Jean-Marie Audibert, 54, Lucien Plaisance, 36, a pilot with Air Guadeloupe. And Mathieu Akue, 40, a native of Togo. They will be flying a Beechcraft 90 and are sponsored by the "Conseil Régional de la Guadeloupe", the French administrative authority.

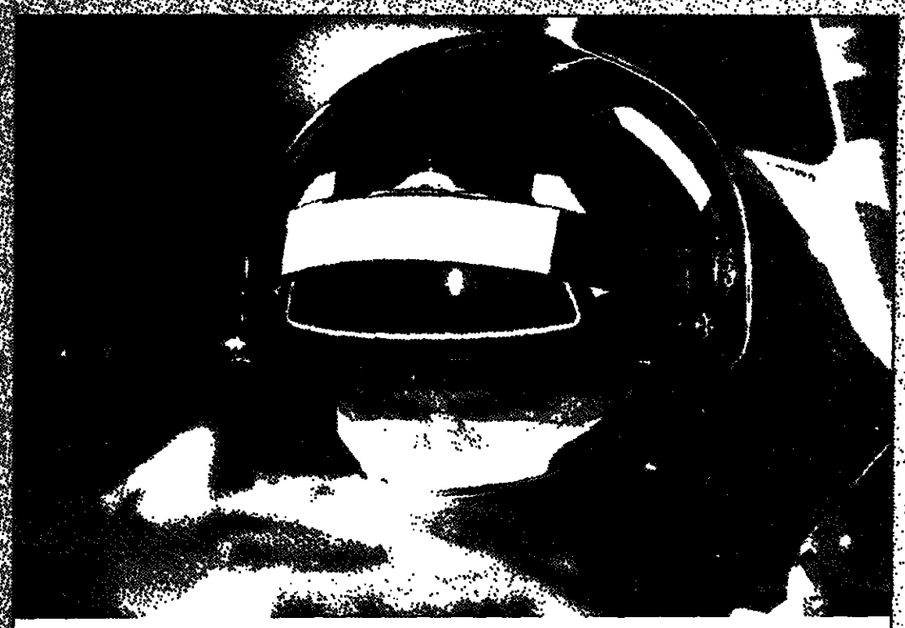
Mrs. Lucette Michaux-Chevry, President of the "Conseil Régional de la Guadeloupe", has organized a warm and outstanding welcome for all participants and organizers, and a beautiful party in the evening of April 1st. No doubt that "Karukera" team will do everything to win the first leg!

Transmitted from Caldwell, N.J., via CompuServe Information Service.

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THIS WEEK ON EUROSPORT



Damon Hill won last years Argentine Grand Prix; can he triumph two years running ? The cycling World Cup is underway; can Johan Museeuw win his second Tour of Flanders ?

Formula One : 5-7 April, LIVE, The Argentinian Grand-Prix, Buenos Aires.
The third round of the Formula One World Championship comes from Buenos Aires. Damon Hill will be looking for his second consecutive win at the Autodromo Oscar Galvez.

Cycling : 7 April, LIVE, The World Cup, Tour of Flanders.
The Tour of Flanders dates from 1913 and is the second leg of the World Cup. The steep cobled streets make it one of the hardest races of the year to win.

Motorcycling : 6-7 April, LIVE, The Indonesian Grand-Prix, Sentul.
Sentul is a new venue in the Grand-Prix calendar, but over 100.000 people are expected at the circuit to watch the race unfold.

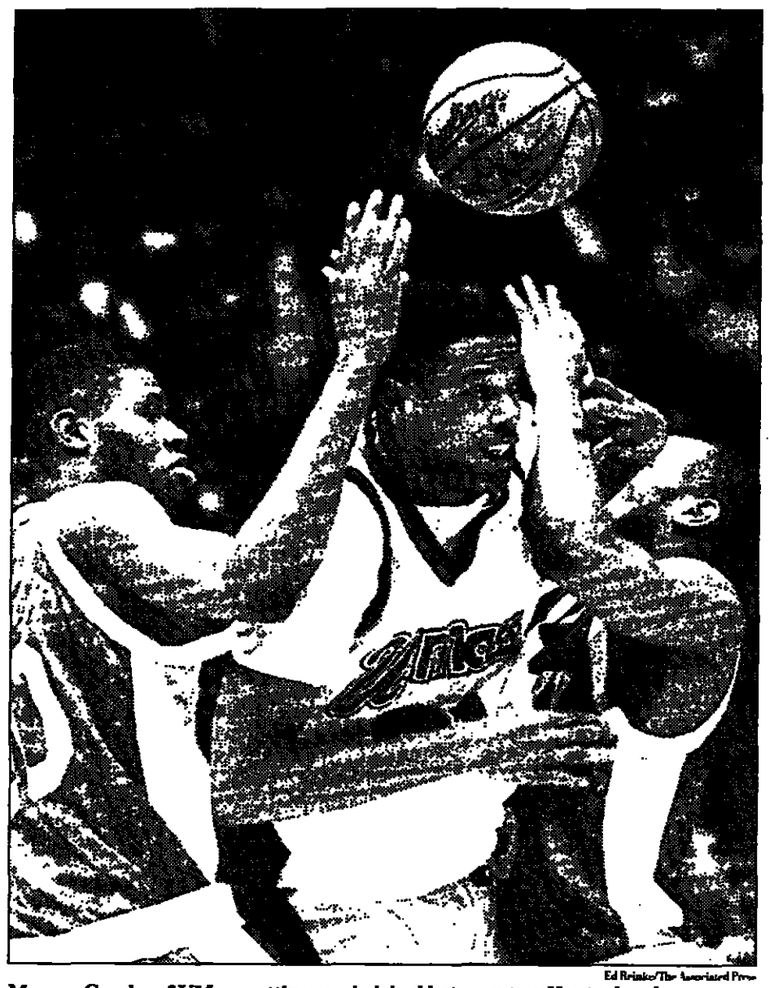
Football : 2-4 April, UEFA Cup and Cup Winners Cup, Semi Finals.
The first leg of the semi-finals brings together some of the top footballing sides in Europe.

Eurosport, the sports TV channel for Europe, covering the best action from Europe and around the world, is available throughout Europe, via cable and satellite.

BASEBALL Odes to Opening Day p. 21 **TENNIS** Graf and Agassi Win Lipton Titles p. 20 **SOCCER** Liverpool Downs Aston Villa p. 20

Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL
SPORTS

Kentucky and Syracuse Win Trip to Title Game



Ed Reinke/The Associated Press

Marcus Camby of UMass getting sandwiched between two Kentucky players.

Wildcats Hold Off Late Surge by UMass

Los Angeles Times

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey — Because their road to the Final Four had mostly produced road kill, the Kentucky Wildcats could tell you everything about their game except what they'd do in a close one.

They found out Saturday.

Driven to a near panic attack by an opponent that lived on the edge all season, Kentucky kept its head down the stretch and defeated Massachusetts, 81-74, before 19,229 at the Meadowlands Arena.

The victory avenged a 10-point defeat to UMass on Nov. 28, put Kentucky into Monday's national championship game against Syracuse and ended speculation that the Wildcats were somehow vulnerable because they hadn't been involved in many close encounters.

Was it their fault they won 32 games by an average of 23 points? "As the game got close, I thought they might panic," said UMass's head coach, John Calipari. "They did at times, but not enough to sway the game."

So much for the worn notion that Kentucky is one dimensional, lives off the three-point shot and can be taken in a half-court game. That was last year's rap.

Kentucky prevailed Saturday while making only three of nine three-point attempts and playing UMass-style game. "I thought the game was played and unfolded the way we wanted it to unfold," Calipari said. And he still lost.

UMass controlled the tempo, the clock and had cut a 15-point second-half deficit to three with 1:02 remaining. "I always felt we were going to play well in close games," said Kentucky's head coach, Rick Pitino. But he didn't know.

Sloppy play allowed a 10-point lead with 2:35 left to evaporate, forcing center Mark Pope to make two free throws with 52 seconds left to extend the lead to 75-70.

UMass's Edgar Padilla then raced downcourt and missed a three-point attempt. Kentucky got the rebound, and Anthony Epps heaved a long pass to a streaking Antoine Walker, who scored with 38 seconds left. After another miss by the Minutemen, the Wildcats burned them with another long pass, Derek Anderson to Tony Delk, and victory was secured.

"I guess we handled it well," said Walker, of the pressure. "We got the 'W.' We always go wire-to-wire in our scrimmages. We get experience every day that people don't see."

The Minutemen's motto this season was "Refuse to Lose," and they tried to live up to it. Center Marcus Camby, who was dominant in the November victory over Kentucky with 32 points, nine rebounds, five blocks, scored 25 this time. "We knew he was going to get his points," Walker said, referring to Camby. "Our job was to stop the other guys."

Syracuse 77, Mississippi State 69

In the biggest game in the history of the school, the Mississippi State Bulldogs played a nice game of soccer Saturday, booting balls around the Meadowlands Arena with authority and pizzazz.

Unfortunately for them, the Syracuse Orangemen stuck to basketball in an awkward NCAA semifinal. "At least I was being consistent, huh?," said the Bulldogs' point guard, Marcus Bullard, dejectedly, after his horrendous nine-turnover performance. "Throwing it away, kicking it away."

Getting moments of brilliance from all five of its starters, Syracuse took advantage of 21 Bulldog turnovers to move into the championship game.

After Mississippi State had cut its deficit to three, 56-53, with 6:04 to play, the Orangemen cut off the Bulldogs for good with an array of quality play. Syracuse got a three-pointer from an unsung forward, Todd Burgan, a 15-foot jumper from its star, John Wallace, and a steal and a three-pointer from its shooting guard, Jason Cipolla. "That was the game when Jason made that play," said Syracuse's head coach, Jim Boeheim.

Syracuse, which was seeded fourth in the West Regional, is the lowest-seeded team to make it to the title game since No. 6 Michigan lost to Duke in 1991. "The turnovers set the tone," said Syracuse's point guard, Lazarus Sims, whose careful passing kept the Orangemen's turnover total to only five. He had nine assists, and no turnovers. When the game was over, Sims fired the basketball toward the Syracuse rooting section.

"These kids play hard, they play together, and they're not afraid to step up," Boeheim said. "Todd Burgan has been struggling, he missed the three in the first half. I talked to him, and he said, 'I can make the shot.' And I said, 'I guess you can.' And he made the big one. That's what we try to do at Syracuse, let the players play the game. It's his shot."

The Orangemen (29-8) were carried in the first half by forward Otis Hill, who had 15 first-half points against the Bulldog's big man, Erick Dampier. Wallace led all scorers with 21 points, including a couple of floating fallaways over the Bulldogs' forward, Dontae' Jones.

Mississippi State (26-8), which rumbled through the Southeast Regional behind sparkling shooting, tough defense and efficient guard play, made a handful of quick jumpers early, climbing to a 15-8 lead, then proceeded to scatter basketballs wildly against Syracuse's aggressive 2-3 zone defense.

Other than Bullard flinging passes away on the break, Dampier seemed most bothered by the Syracuse defense, dropping balls and tossing panicked passes when the Orangemen collapsed on him.

Despite Mississippi State's 41-21 rebound advantage, the turnovers destroyed the Bulldogs. "They just made a lot of mistakes," Boeheim said. "I don't think the turnovers were caused by anything we did, they just made bad plays early."

Said Bullard: "It wasn't anything about their zone, it was my bad decision-making in transition. If I don't make all those bad decisions, we probably get easy shots and we probably win the game."

Women's Final Has a Southern Feel

Los Angeles Times

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Georgia upset Stanford while Tennessee beat Connecticut in overtime to set up a meeting of teams from the South Eastern Conference in the women's NCAA basketball final Sunday.

On Friday, Georgia ended Stanford's 23-game winning streak, 86-76. Saudia Roundtree, the senior Naismith Award winner, was typically brilliant for Georgia. She had 26 points, seven assists, and was nine for nine from the free-throw line, running Stanford off its feet. Georgia's lead reached 18 points in the second half, but Stanford cut it to five, 81-76, with 1:21 to go.

In the other semifinal, Michelle Marciniak played 41 of 45 minutes, had 21 points, six assists and three steals to lead Tennessee to an 88-83 overtime victory over Connecticut and into its second consecutive women's national championship game.

Tennessee led, 75-72, with time running out in regulation. But Nykesha Sales made a three-pointer with four seconds to go to send the game to overtime.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Springbok Spared

RUGBY UNION South Africa's National Sports Council decided Saturday to retain the Springbok as the emblem of the national rugby team.

However, Mulelki George, the NSC president, said the South African Rugby Football Union had recognized the king protea flower as the national sporting symbol and agreed to wear only this symbol on their blazers. But the team will continue to wear the springbok with a garland of proteas underneath on their rugby jerseys. *(Reuters)*

Kiwis Win Sevens

RUGBY UNION Fijian Waisake Masirewa scored two tries against his former teammates to help his adopted country, New Zealand, win its third straight Hong Kong Sevens title on Sunday. Masirewa, who played for Fiji in last year's final, linked splendidly with the player of the tournament, Christian Cullen, to give the All Blacks a victory by 19-17. *(Reuters)*

Coryatt Is Charged

FOOTBALL Prosecutors charged an Indianapolis Colts linebacker, Quentin Coryatt, with brandishing a handgun at another motorist in an incident two weeks ago. *(AP)*

Two Deals in Florida

STADIUMS Owners of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers and county officials agreed to a compromise proposal for a new stadium, breaking an eight-month impasse. The truce between the Malcolm Glazer family and the Hillsborough County Commission sent the proposal for the $168 million facility to the City Council and the Tampa Sports Authority.

• Miami officials, trying to avoid losing two teams to neighboring Broward County, voted to help pay for a $210 million arena for the Miami Heat of the National Basketball Association. The decision increased the chances that the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League would leave the state, as Broward officials said they were unlikely to construct an arena for just one team. *(AP)*

Lamb Won't Go Quietly

CRICKET Allan Lamb, the former England test cricketer, is retiring so he can publish his autobiography. The Northamptonshire batsman said he would quit to prevent the Test and County Cricket Board, English cricket's governing body, from exercising its right to veto the book. *(Reuters)*



Dimitri Messinis/AFP

Priestess Maria Pambouckí of Greece used a mirror to catch solar rays at Olympia to light a flame for the Olympic torch.

Hill Finds Peak Form

Briton Dominates Brazilian Grand Prix

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Damon Hill, unfazed by a surprise rainstorm or teammate Jacques Villeneuve, drove to his second straight Formula One victory Sunday in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Hill, in a Williams Renault, was flawless in both wet and dry conditions, completing the 71 laps around the 2.687-mile Jose Carlos Pace Circuit in 1 hour, 49 minutes and 52.976 seconds.

The British driver finished nearly 18 seconds ahead of Jean Alesi's Benetton-Renault and a full lap in front of defending world champion Michael Schumacher, who was third in a Ferrari.

"It was a bit tricky, this race, because there were moments when it was raining on one half of the track and dry on the other half. We didn't know what strategy to use," Hill said.

Mika Hakkinen took fourth in a McLaren-Mercedes after hometown favorite Rubens Barrichello of Brazil spun out with 12 laps to go.

Mika Salo was fifth in a Tyrrell-Yamaha, and Olivier Panis took sixth in a Ligier-Sports.

Hill's masterful performance erased the doubts that clouded his victory in the season opener in Australia. Hill trailed his teammate for most of that race, inheriting the lead and the victory only when Villeneuve had car trouble.

This time Villeneuve was already a distant second when he spun out during a duel with Alesi and abandoned on the 26th lap and abandoned.

The 1995 IndyCar champion said he had a lot to learn.

"I did make a braking mistake, but I also have very little experience on this track, especially when wet," he said. "I have no experience at all racing in the rain."

The hot, sunny weather had changed abruptly just 30 minutes before the race, and a torrential rain forced teams to change tires and strategy.

Hill, starting from pole position, held his lead and never lost it except during a brief pit stop on the 40th lap.

Hill, the only driver on the track without a rooster-tail spray of water in his face, drove away from pack and opened a 16-second lead on Villeneuve by the 16th lap.

As the rain slackened, the cars began to blow-dry a line on the track, and drivers had to swerve into the wet to cool their tires. British driver David Coulthard was the first to switch to the faster slick tires, on the 23d lap. He regretted it six laps later, when his McLaren-Mercedes slid into the gravel.

Alesi closed on Villeneuve and caught him on the 26th lap as he squeezed inside, and Villeneuve tried to close the door but lost control and spun.

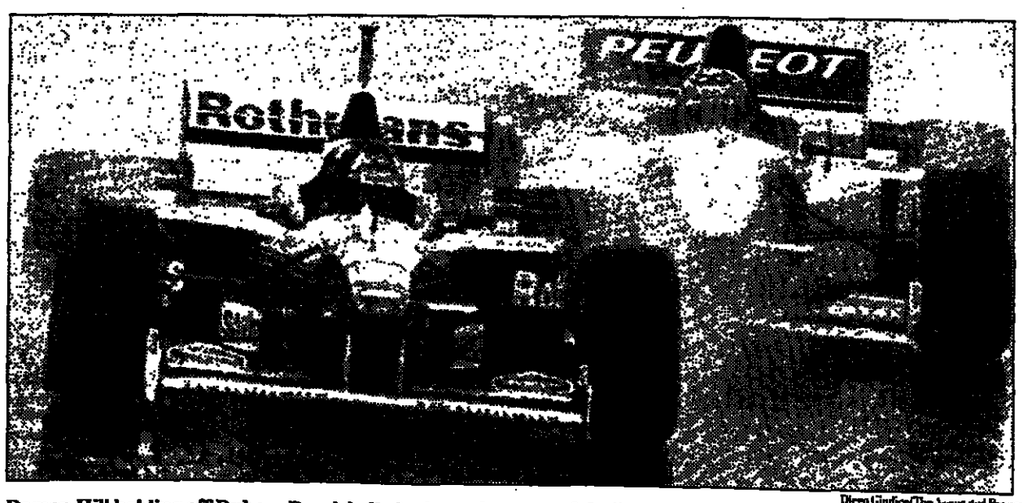
On the 40th lap, with the track still slippery, Hill went into the pits and changed to slicks. The bold maneuver paid off, as the sun peeked out and other drivers followed his lead.

Two laps later, Alesi went in for a tire change and Hill resumed the lead. The two traded fast laps the rest of the race, but Alesi never seriously challenged.

"The weather conditions made the race quite tough," Alesi said. "At the beginning of the race, the car was excellent and handled well, but when we put on dry tires, it didn't perform as well."

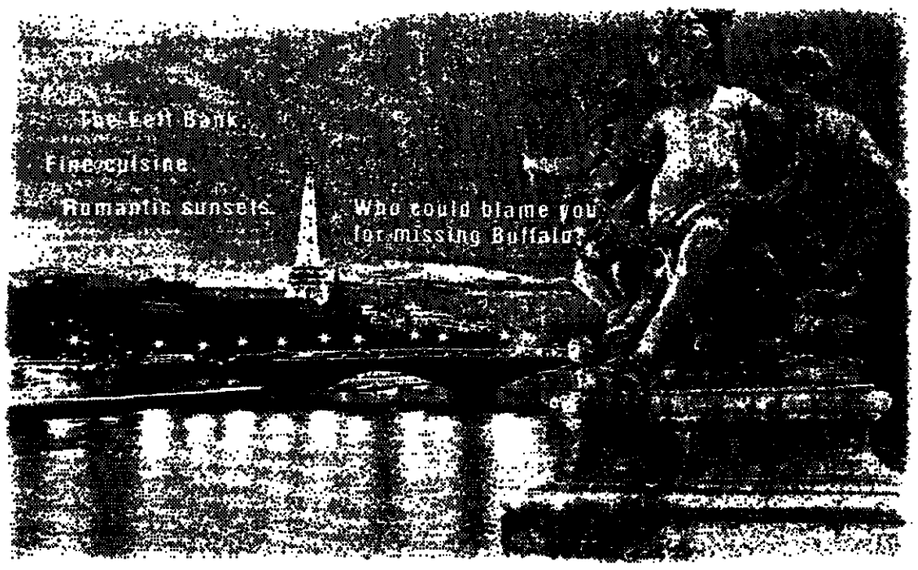
In the final 15 laps, Barrichello brought the crowd to its feet as he chased Schumacher. The Brazilian caught Schumacher on a curve but was repassed immediately and spun out.

Schumacher, who struggled all weekend with his untested Ferrari, had brake problems that made it hard just keeping the car on the slick track.



Diego Giudice/The Associated Press

Damon Hill holding off Rubens Barrichello in the early stages of the Brazilian Grand Prix Sunday at Interlagos.



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